a
PEOW
book

STAGES of ROT

by
LINNEA
STERTE

STAGES of ROT

LINNEA STERTE

PEOW

Stages *of* Rot

Linnea Sterte

Stages *of* Rot
by Linnea Sterte

© 2017 PEOW Studio & Linnea Sterte
ISBN: 978-91-87325-26-7

Editor & book designer: Olle Forsslöf
Co-editors: Elliot Alfredius & Patrick Crotty

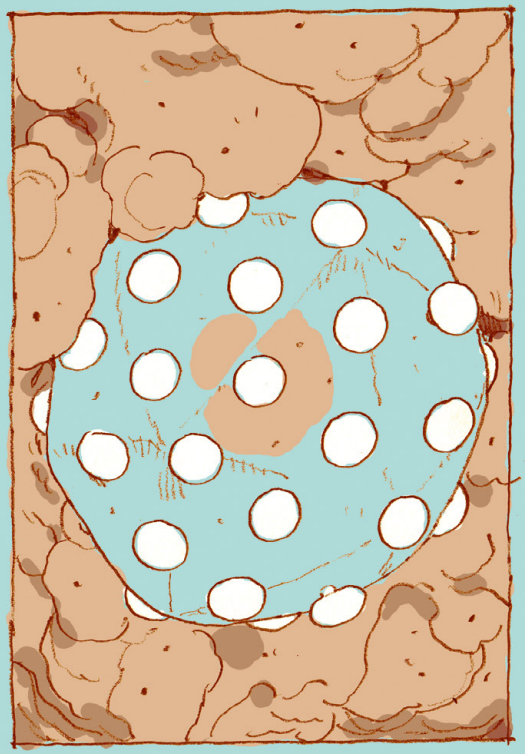
Published by PEOW Studio

contact@peowstudio.com
www.peowstudio.com - instagram: peowstudio - @peowstudio - peowstudio.tumblr.com
Linnea Sterte - turndecassette.tumblr.com

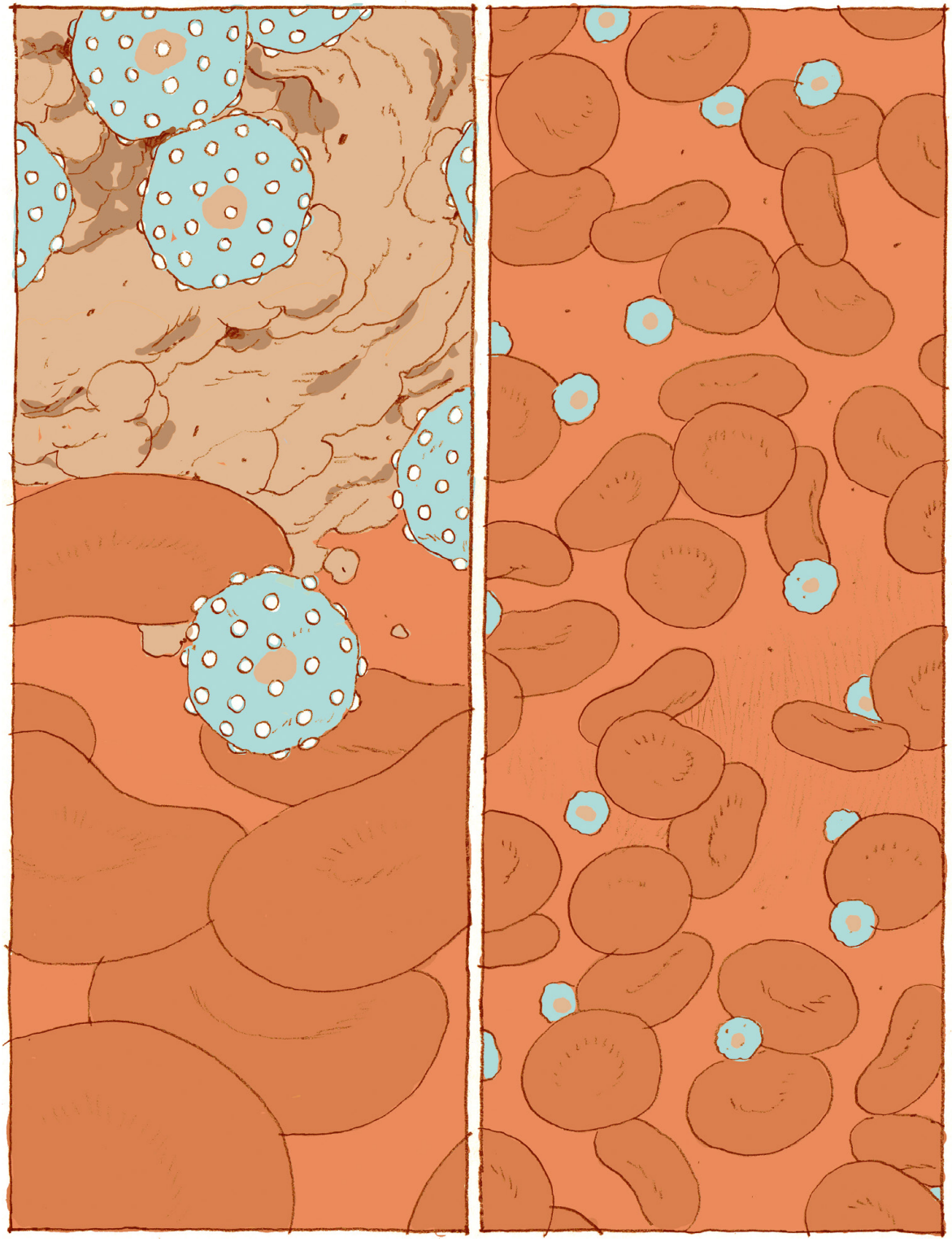
Originally printed in Europe on Munken Print Cream and Munken Pure paper.

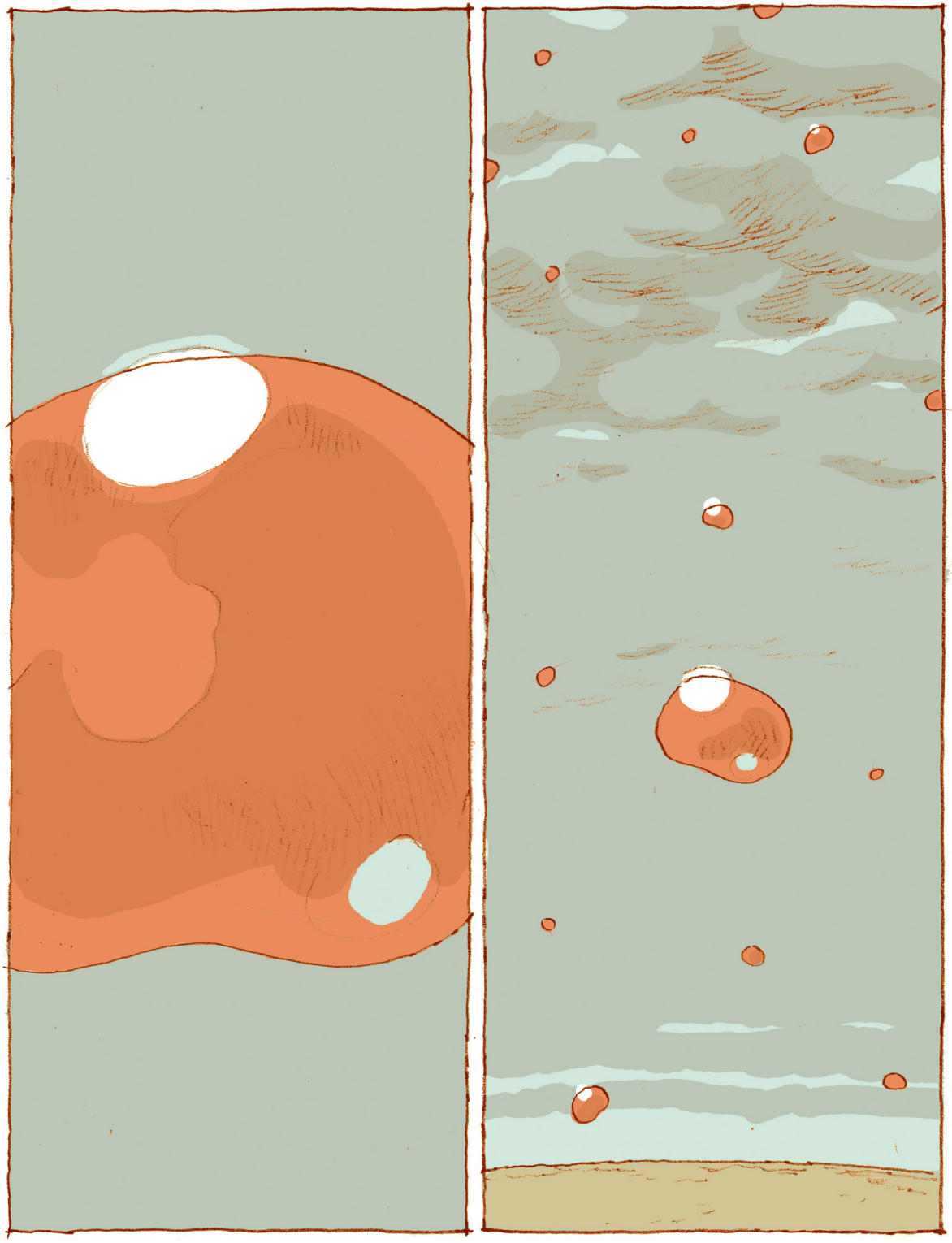
No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form without prior consent from the publisher or author. If you want to show off what a beautiful book you got and post a few pictures online, that's okay.

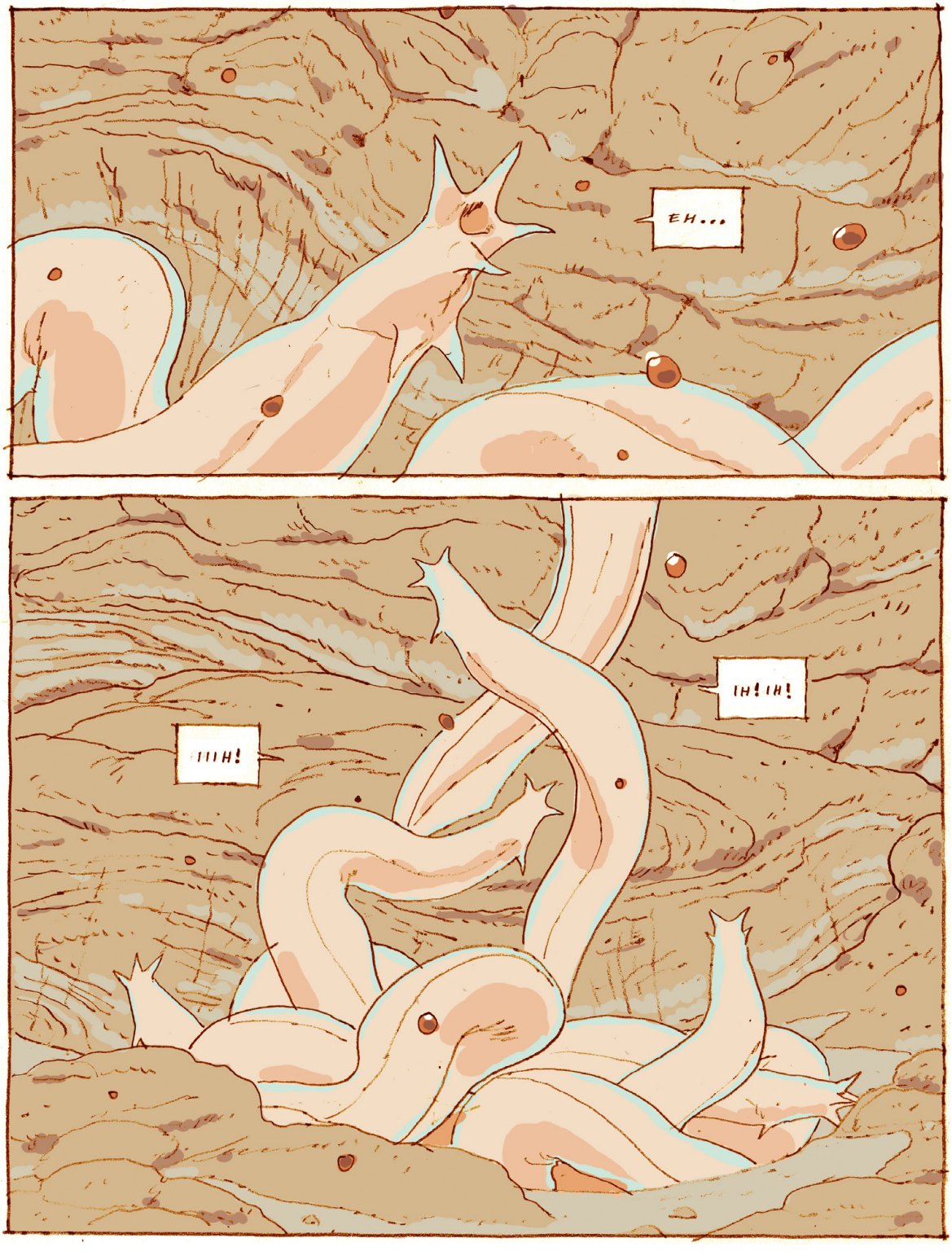
For Mike and Gabo

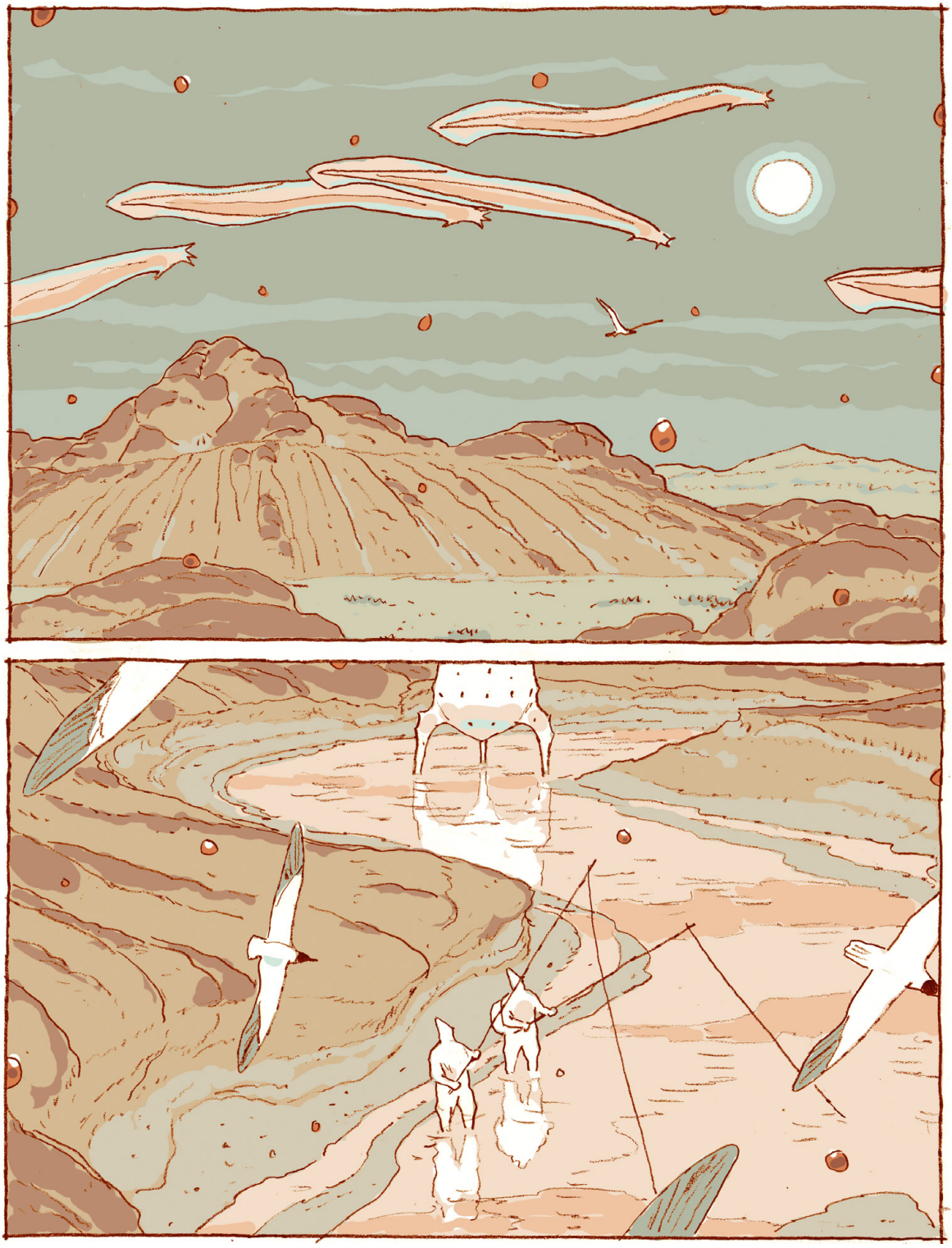


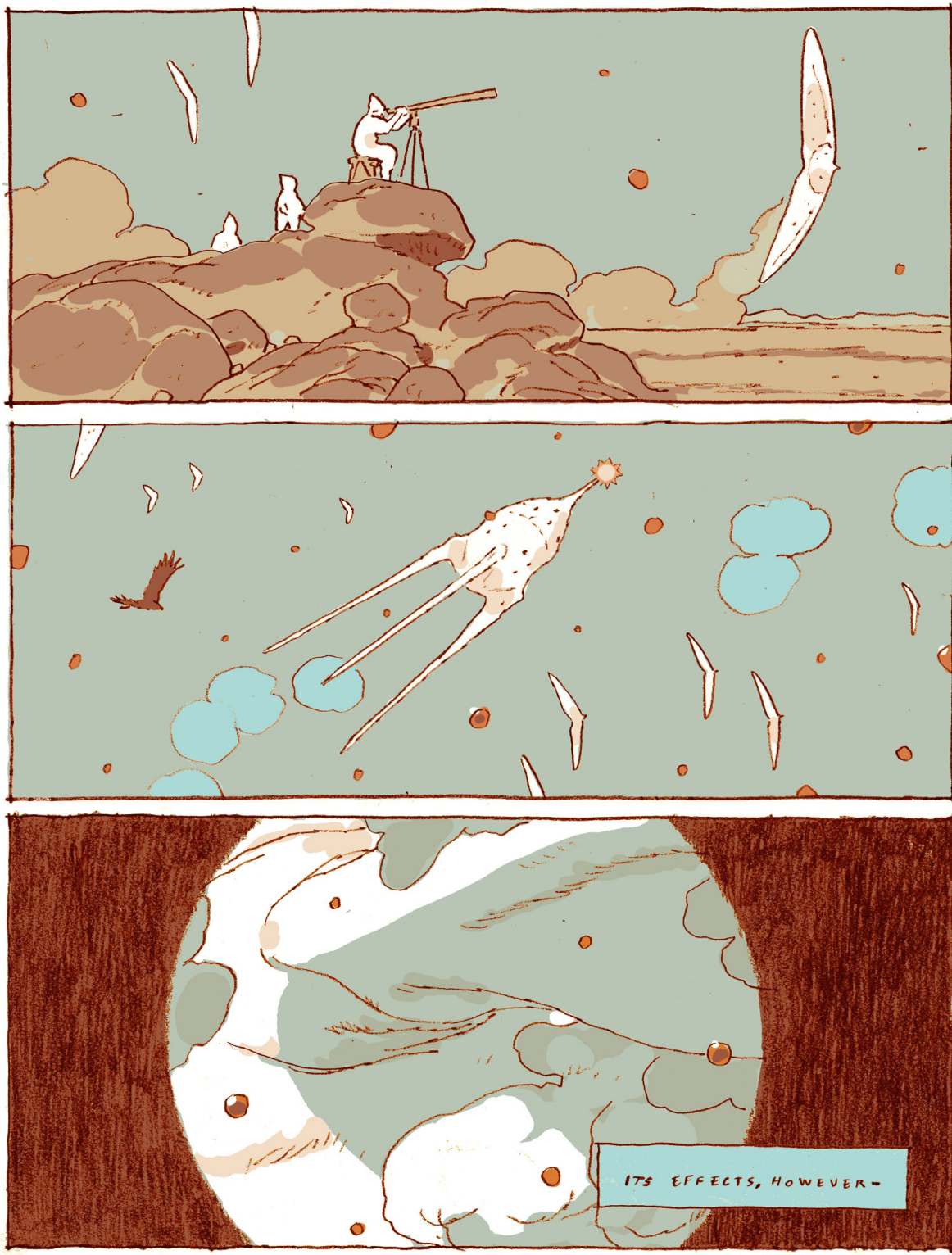
THE CAUSE OF HER DEATH: WE MIGHT NEVER KNOW FOR CERTAIN. TOO MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED. WAS SHE HUNTED - IF SO, BY WHAT?

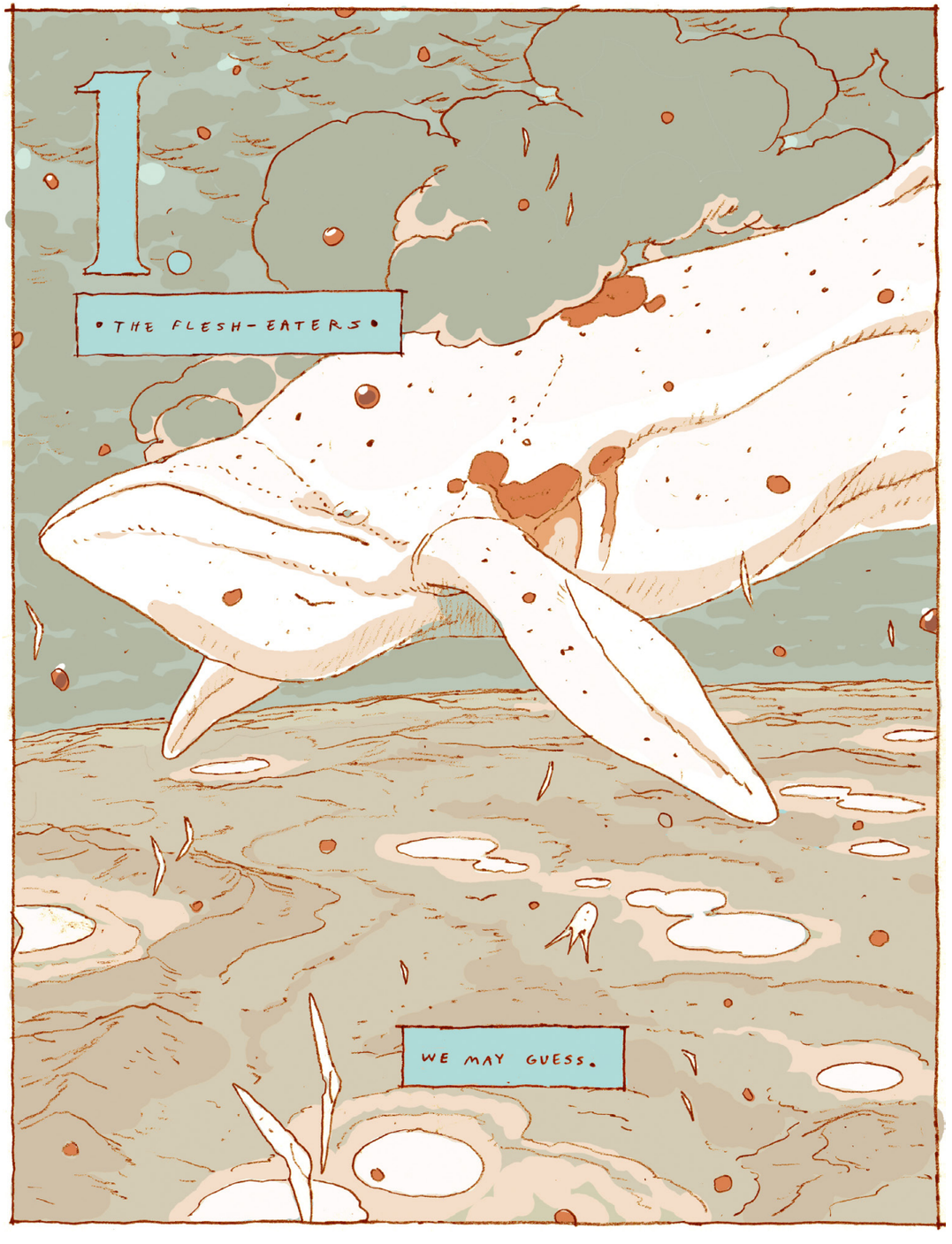




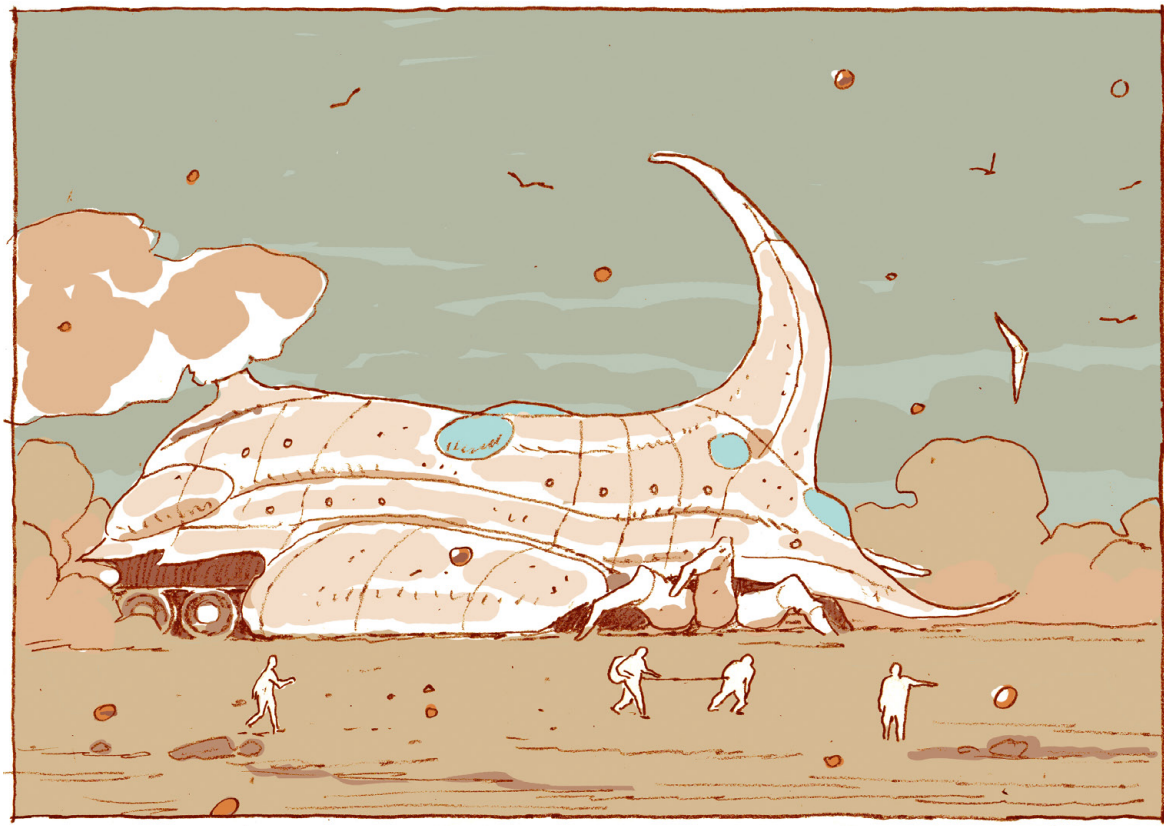

EH...
IH! IH!
IIIH!

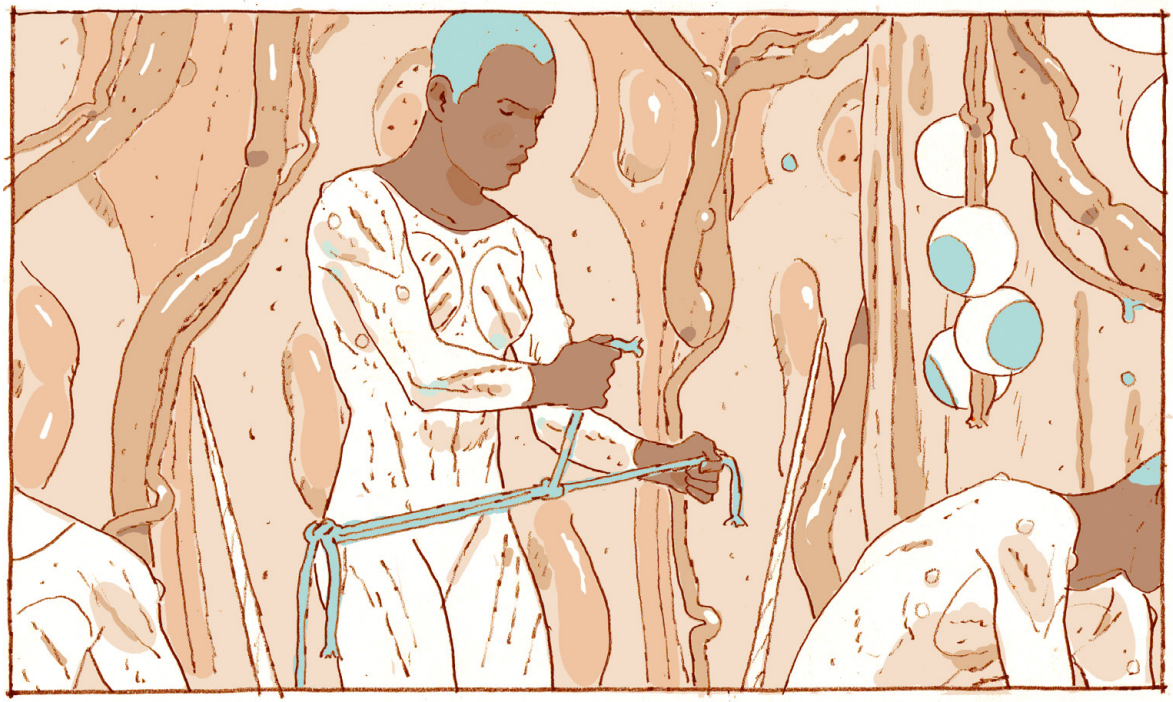


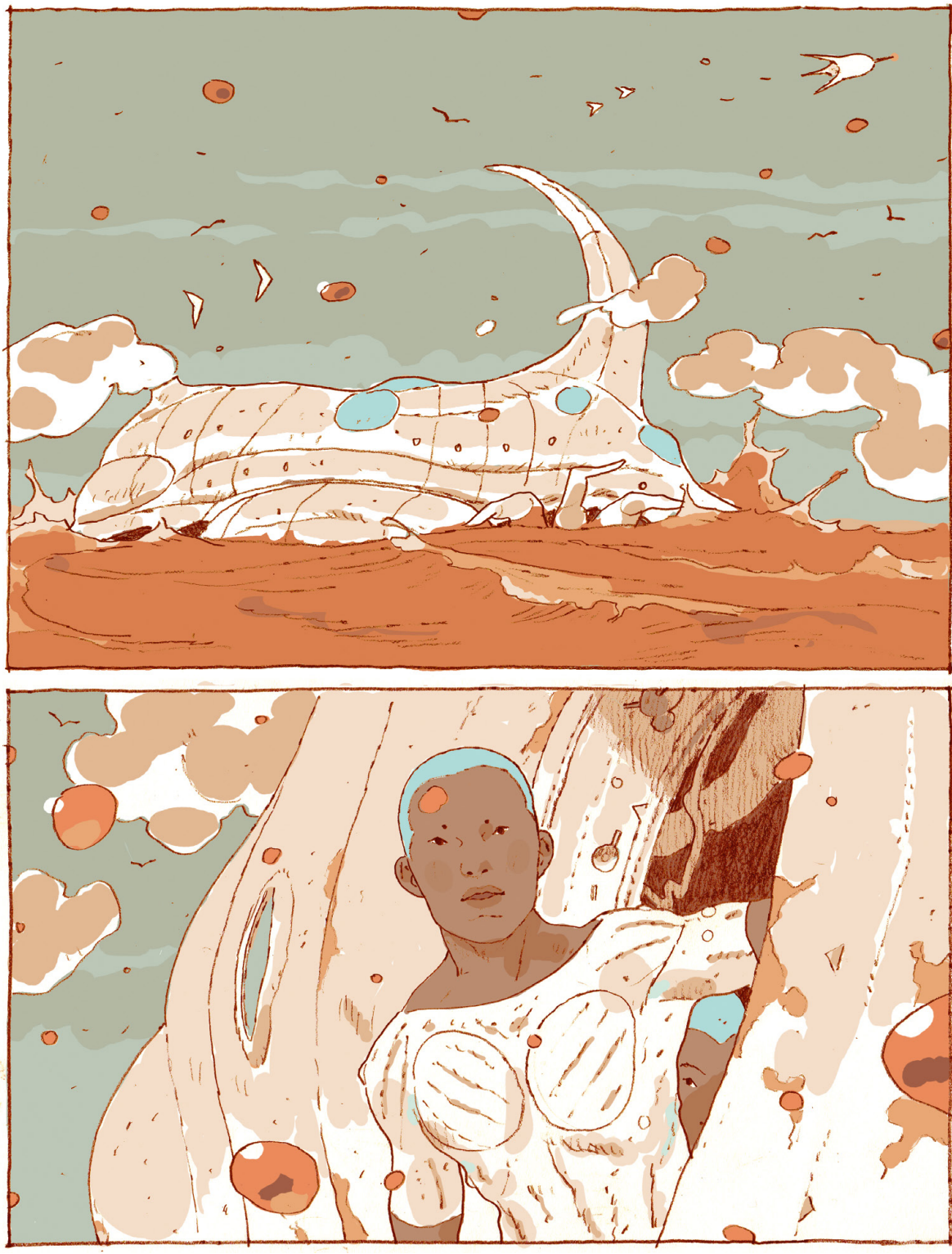

ITS EFFECTS, HOWEVER-

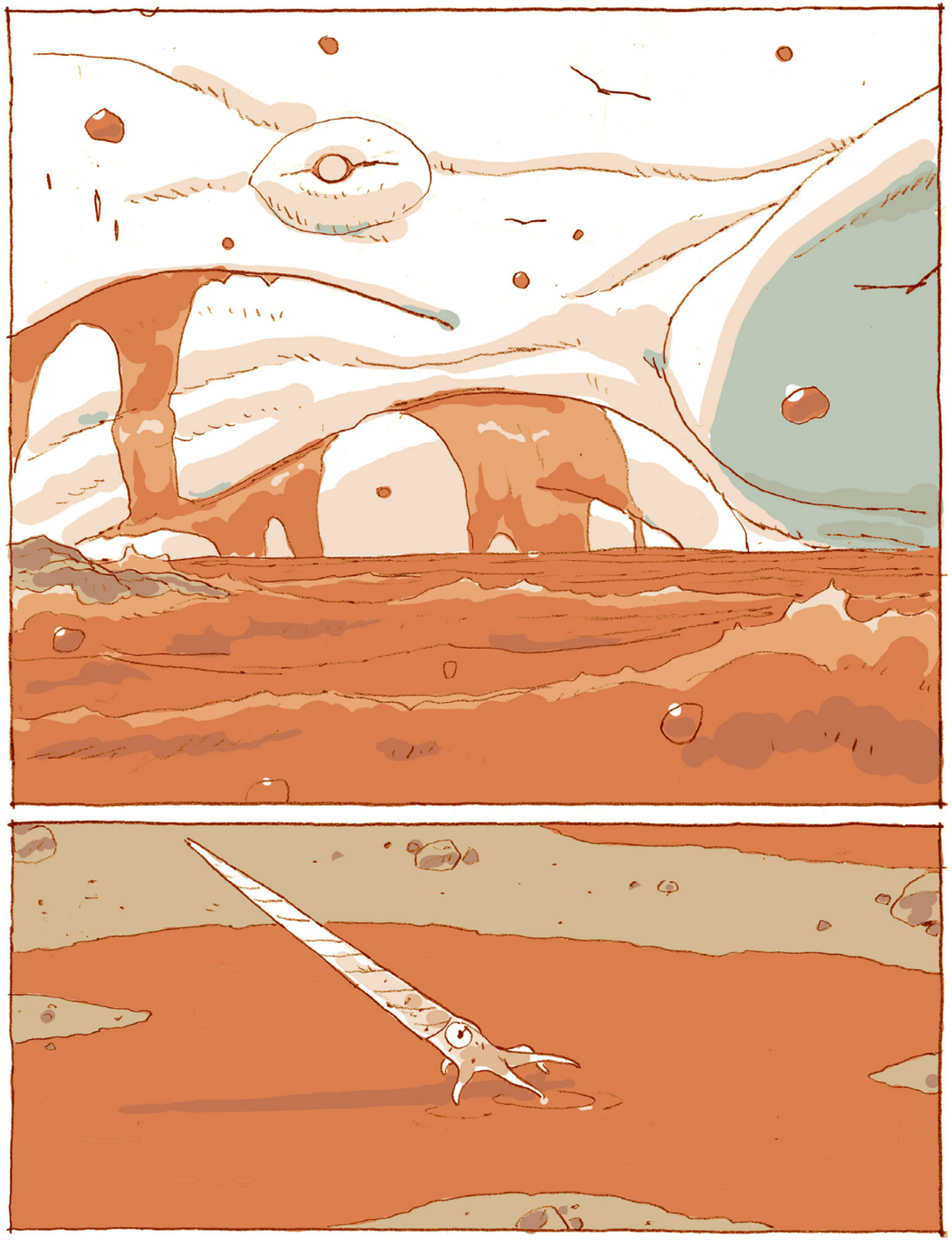

1.
THE FLESH-EATERS
WE MAY GUESS.

FIRST: A SUDDEN ABUNDANCE OF MEAT.







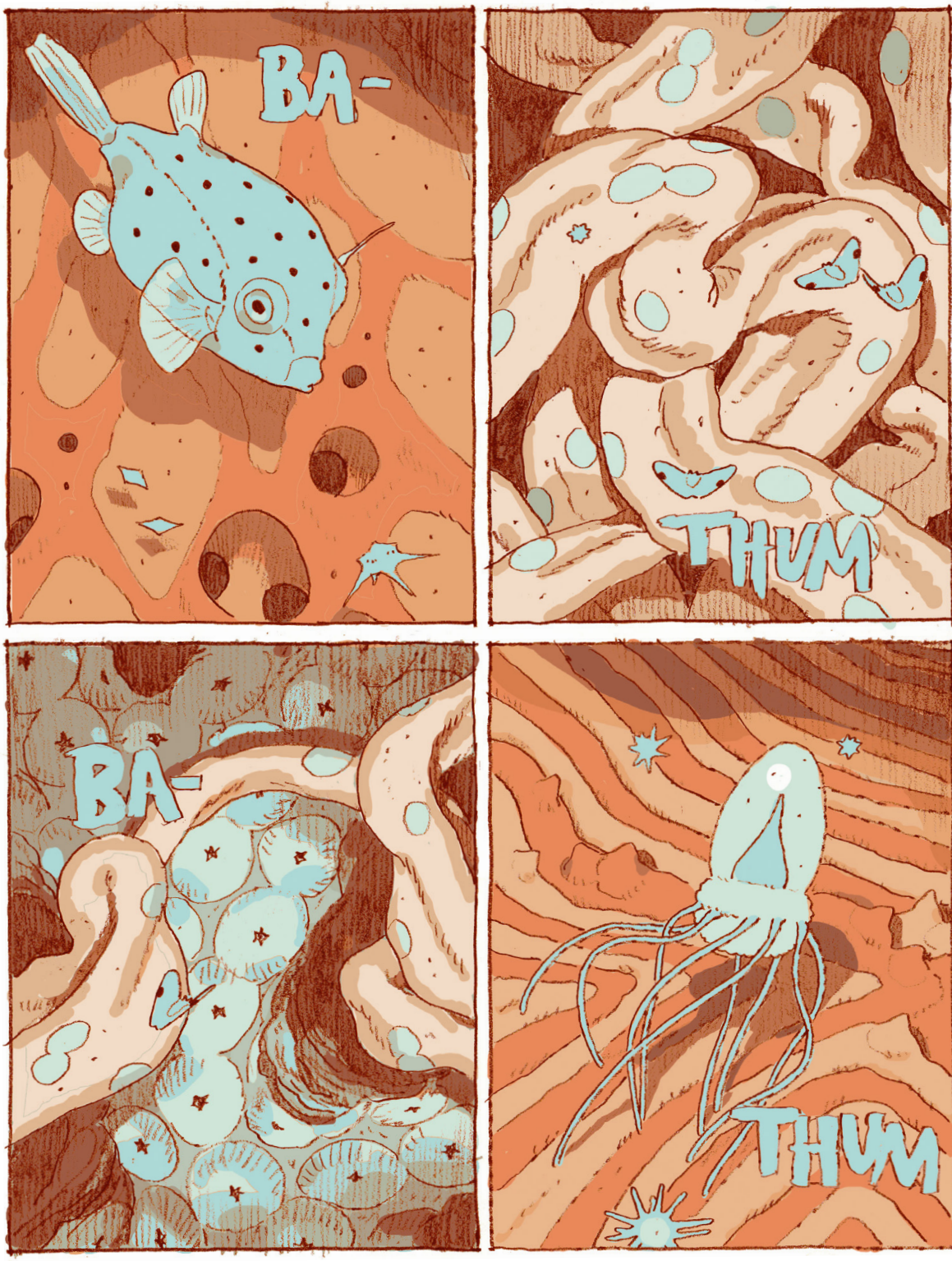


AH!

TODAY WE ARE LUCKY!
HERE SHE LAYS, RIPE AND TENDER-
MY CHAMPIONS!
GO TO HER-

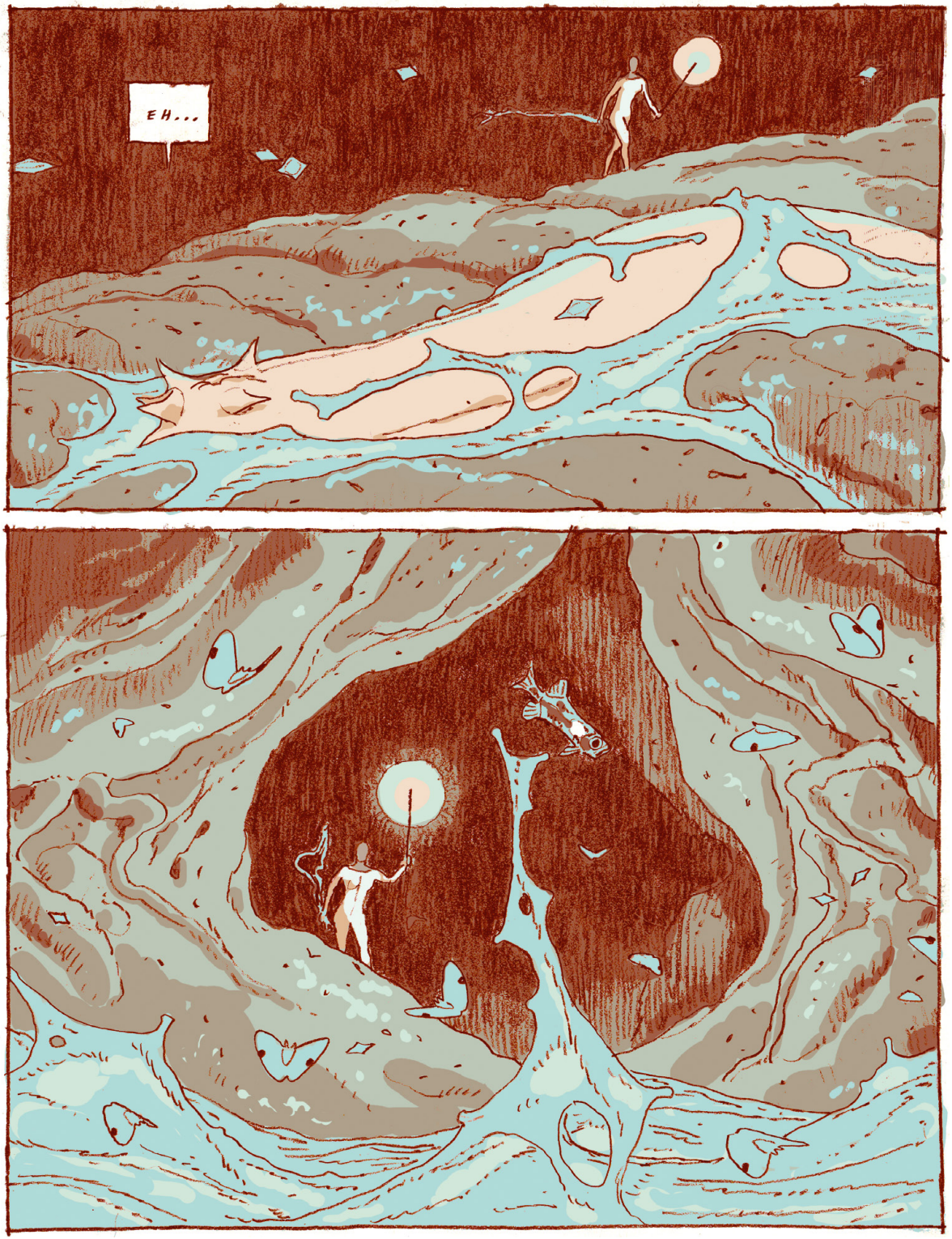
AND BRING ME THE FLESH OF HER HEART!
AYE!
AYE!
AYE!

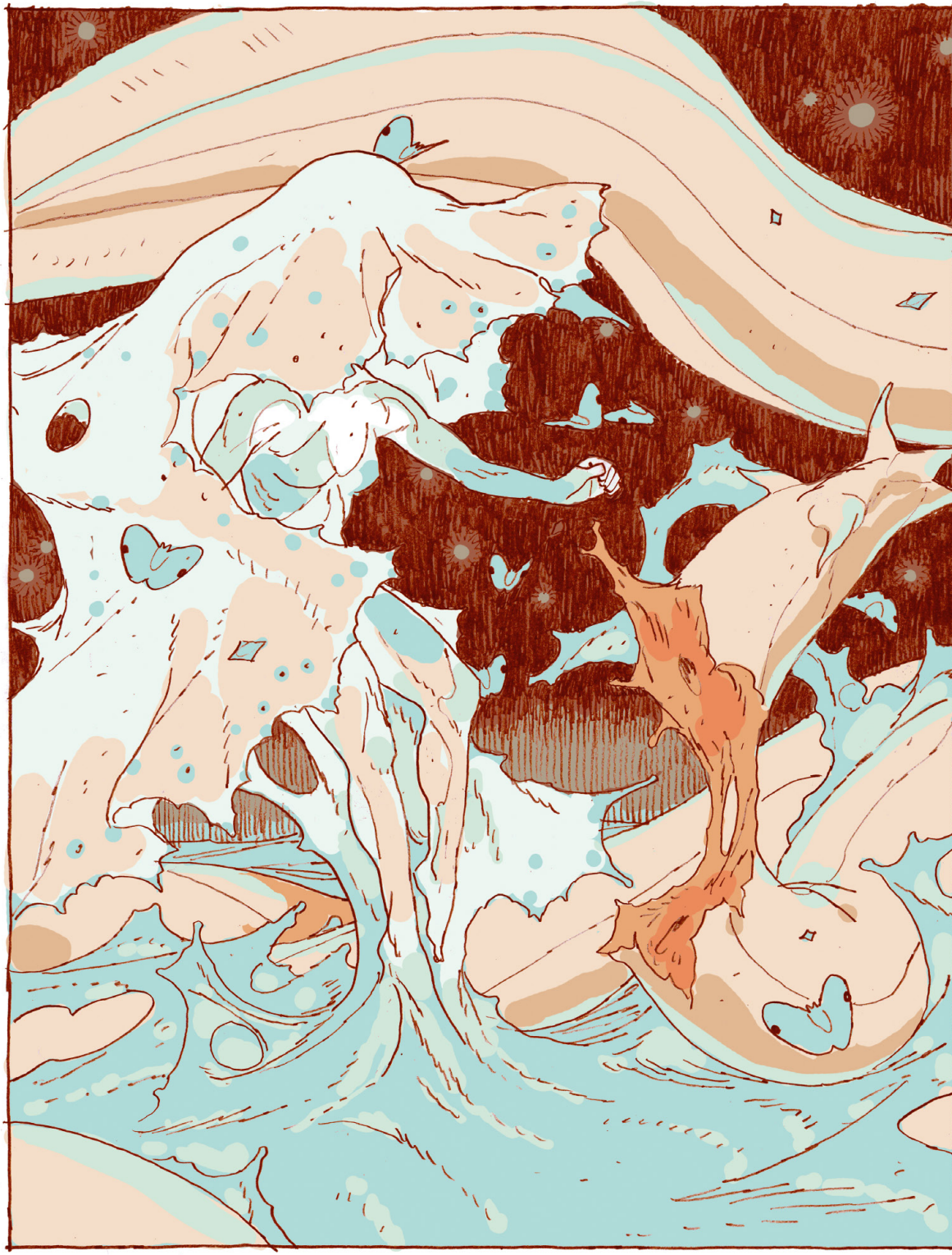
BA-
THUM


BA-
THUM
BA-
THUM

BA-
THUM
IIIIIII-
IIIIIIIIIIYAHH!

YIIIIIIH! IIIIH!

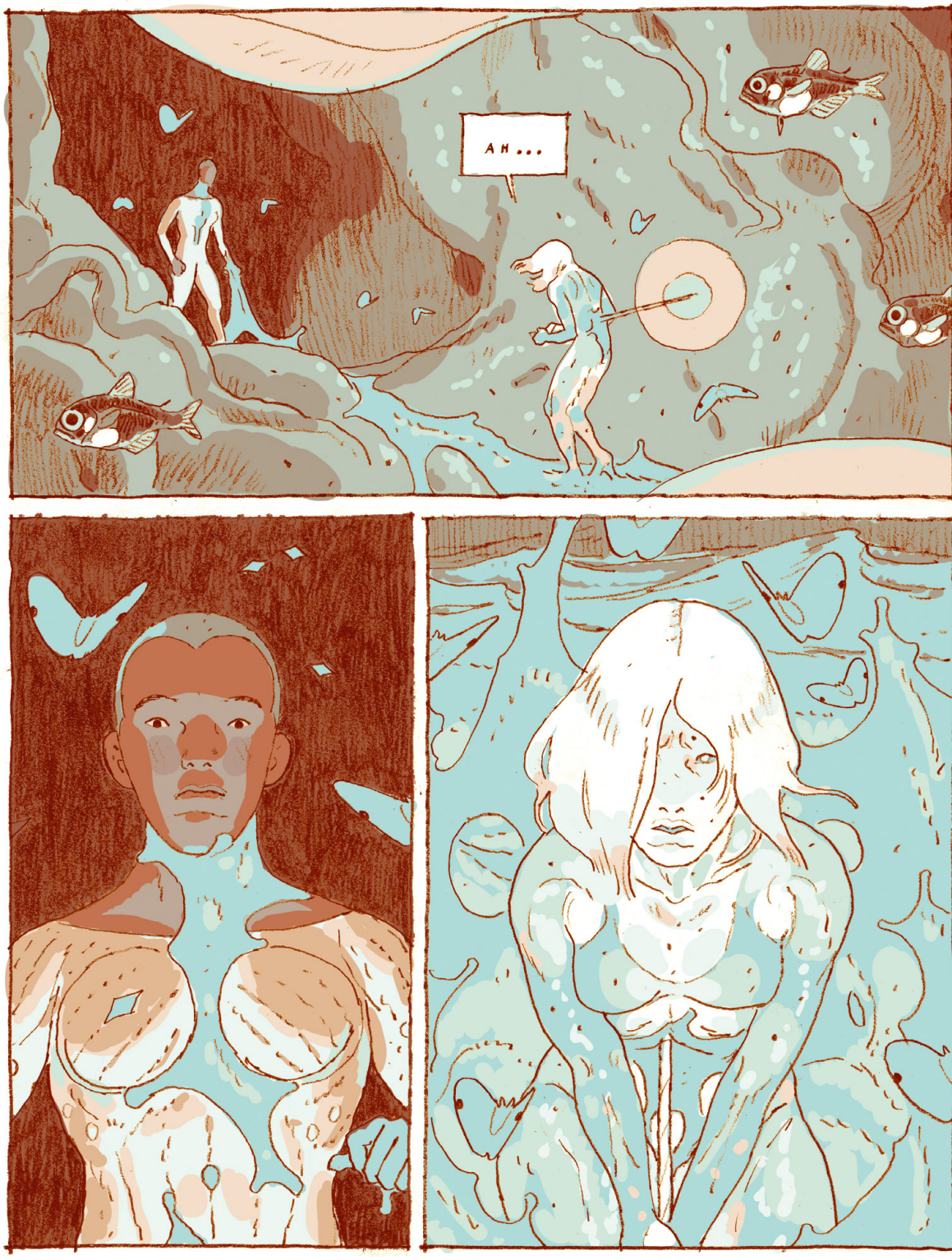

EH...

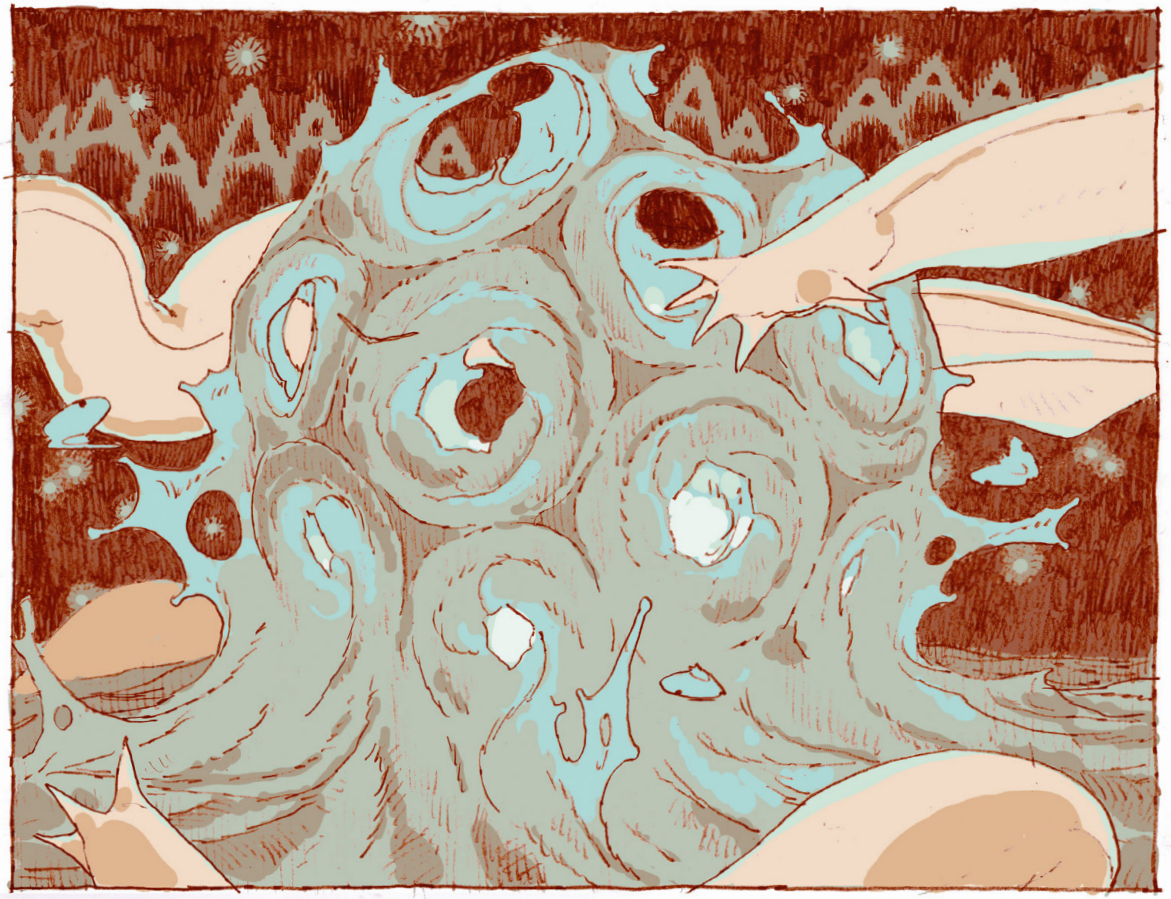


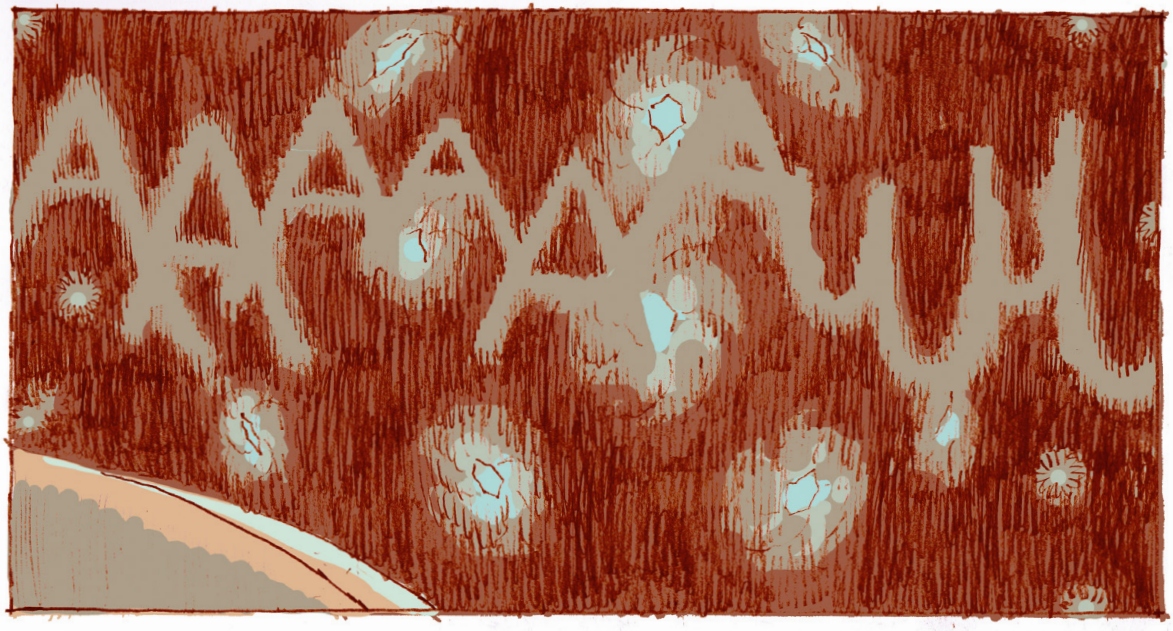
HER 'PILOT'—
WHAT...
A 'HOMUNCULUS' THE SIZE OF A GROWN WOMAN.

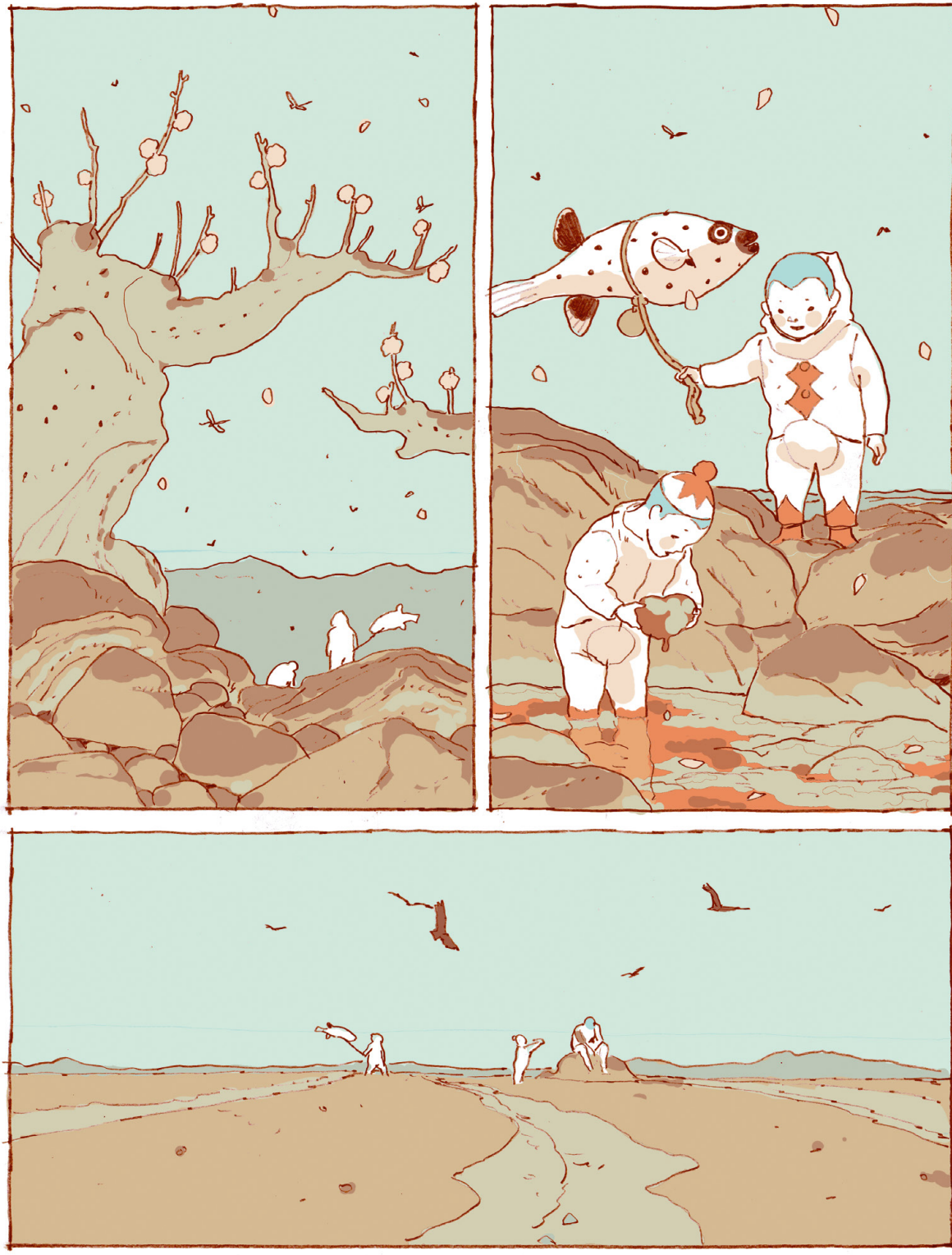
GO AWAY.

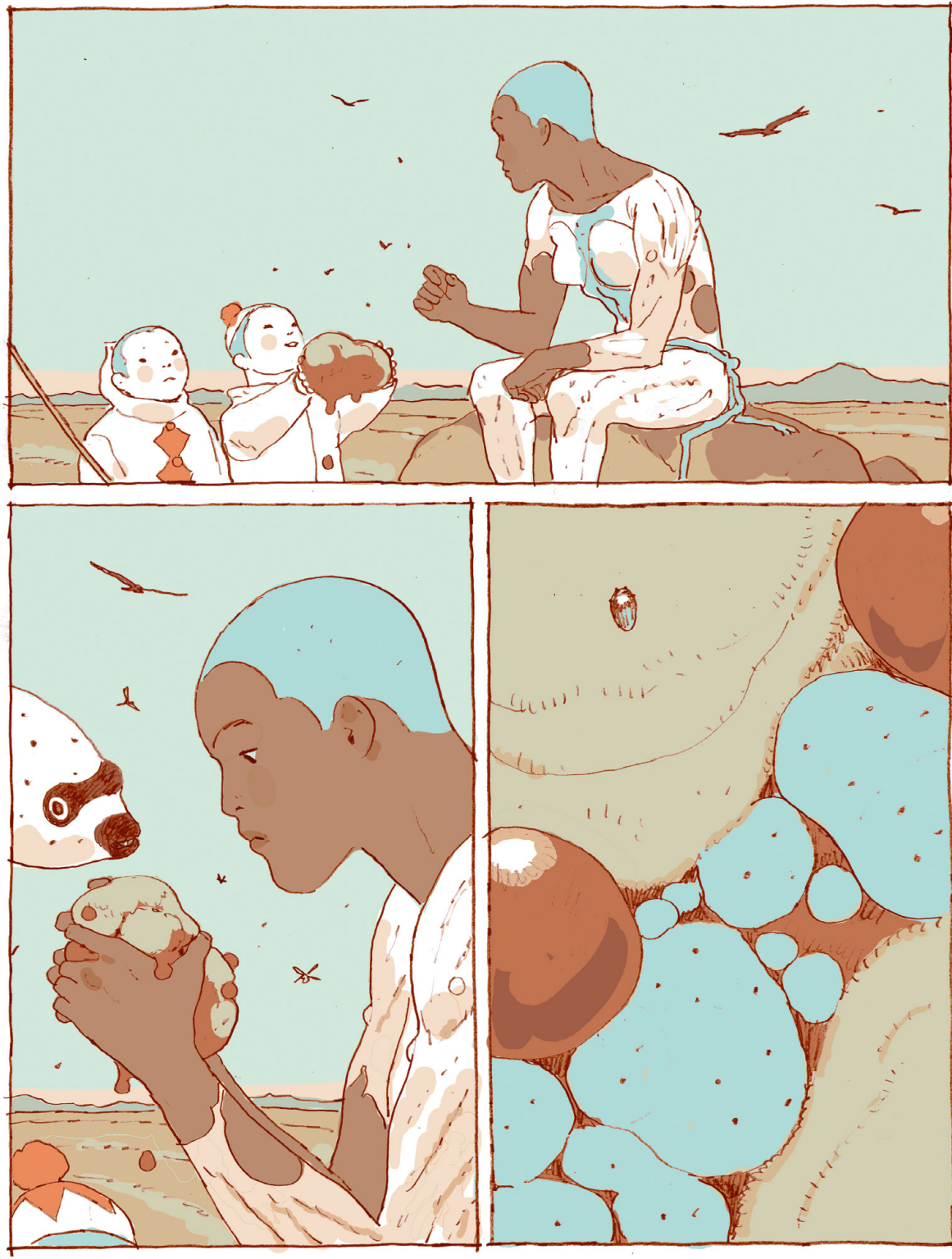
ALL OF YOU.
IT HURTS.
GO-

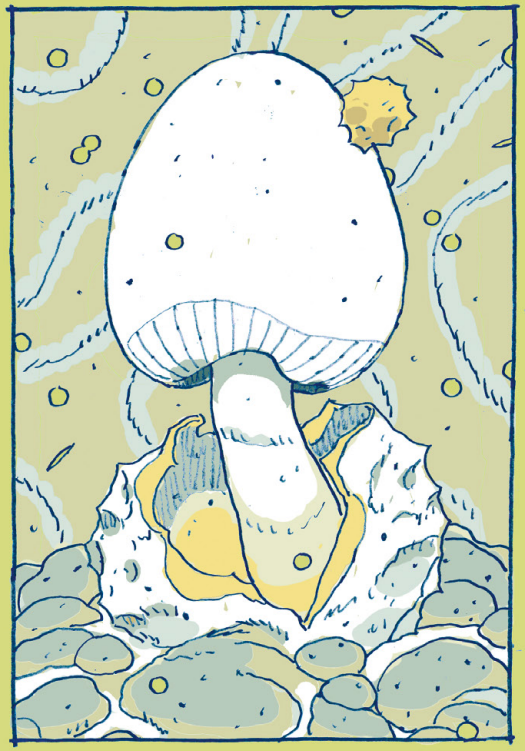

AH...



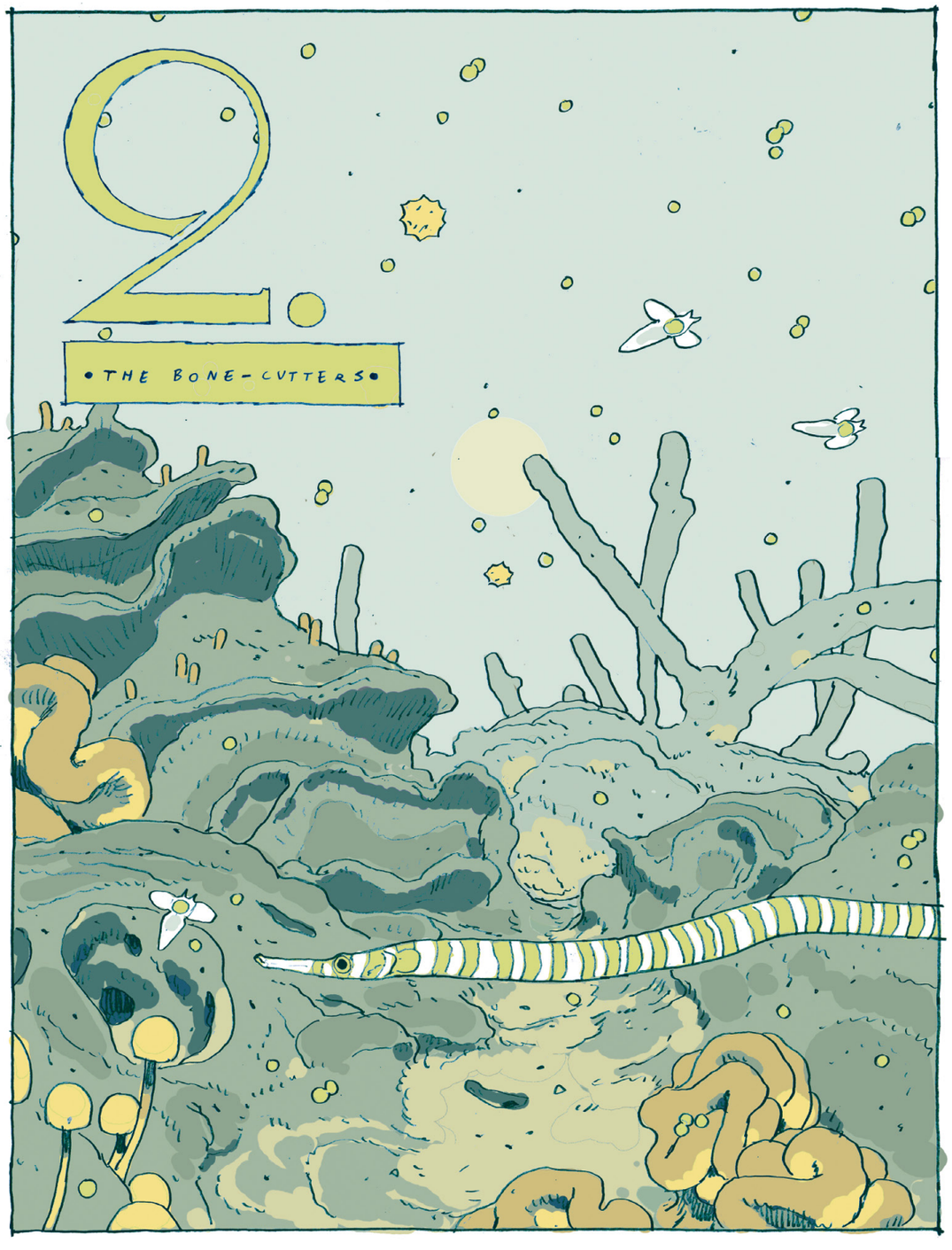


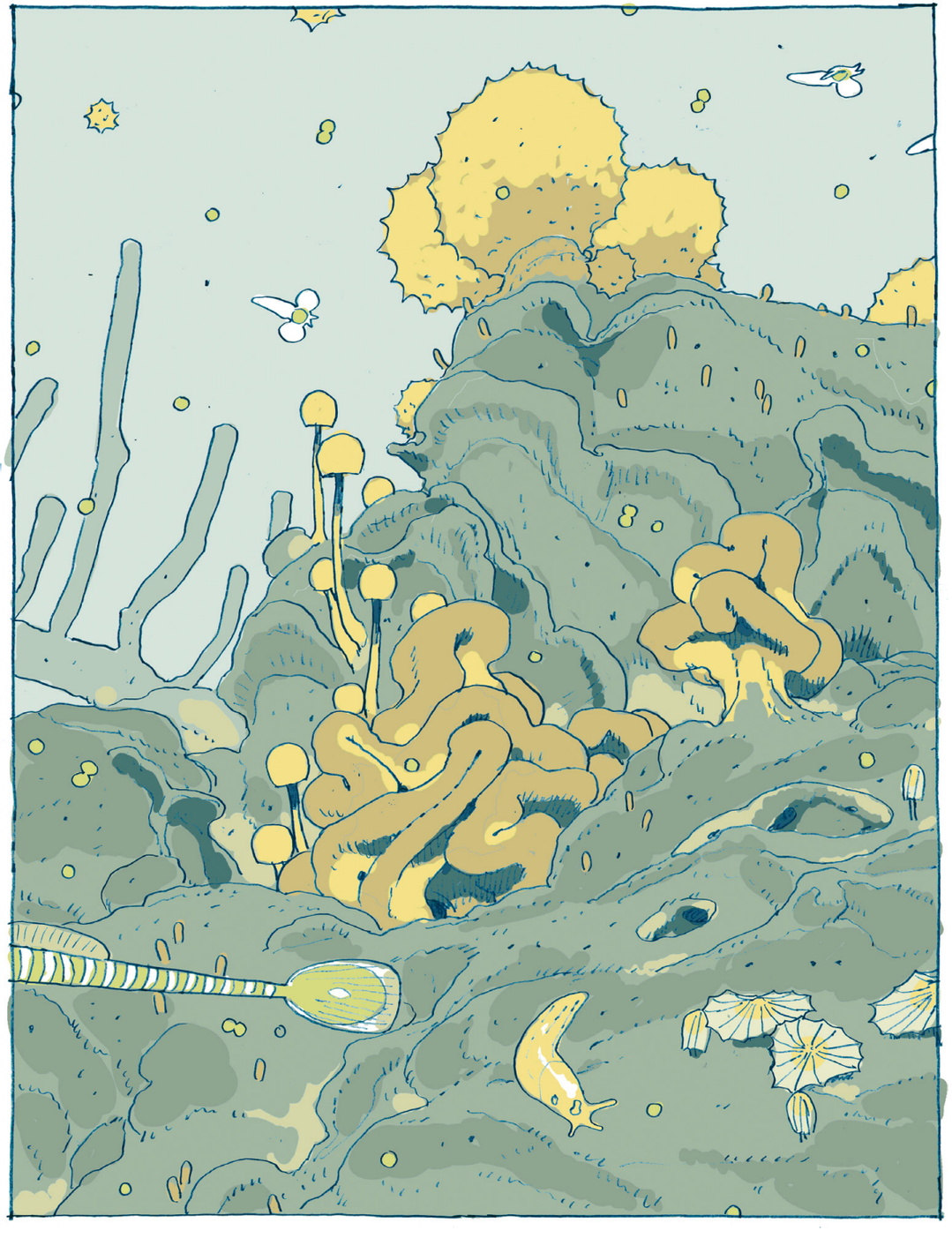


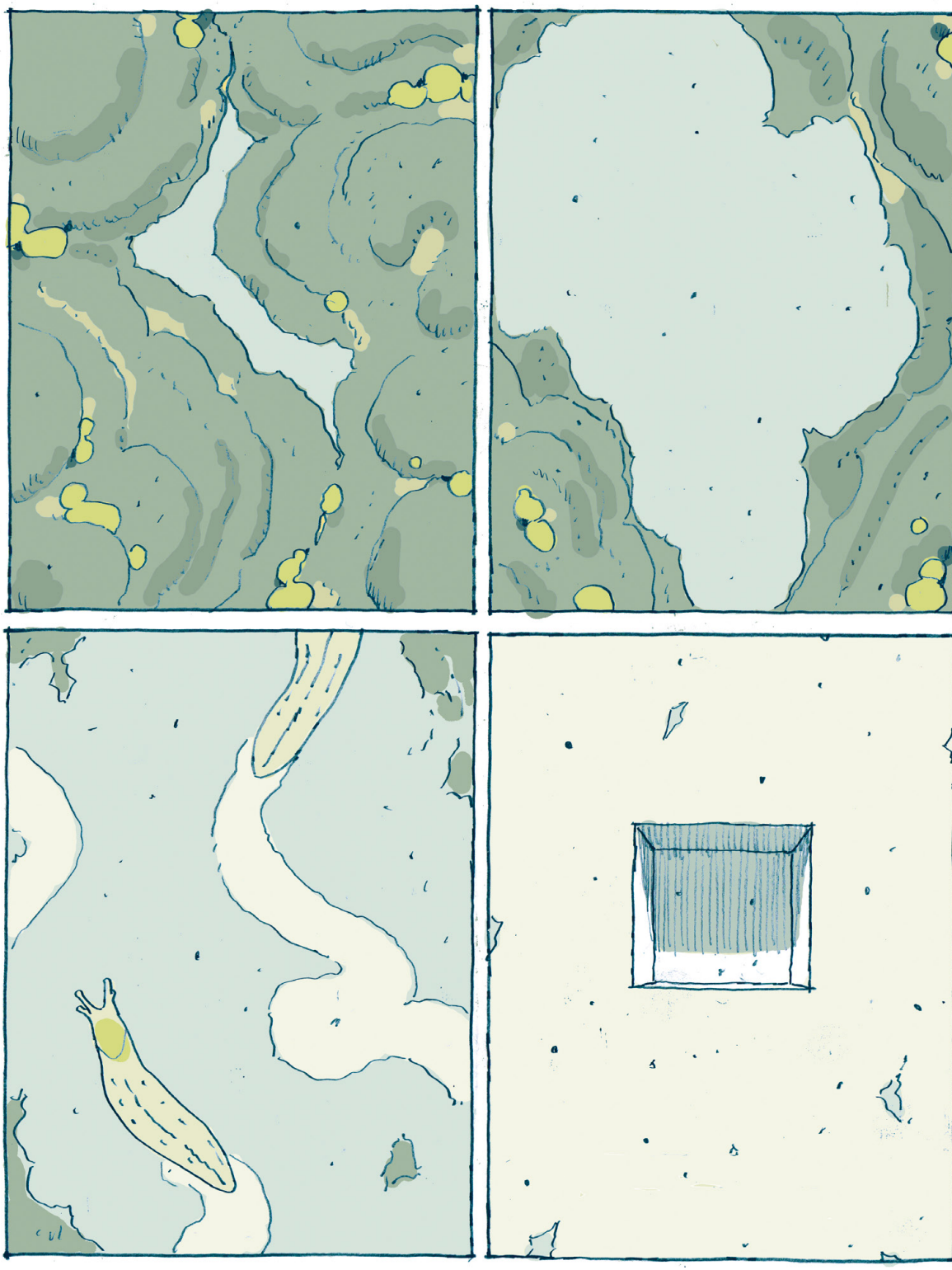


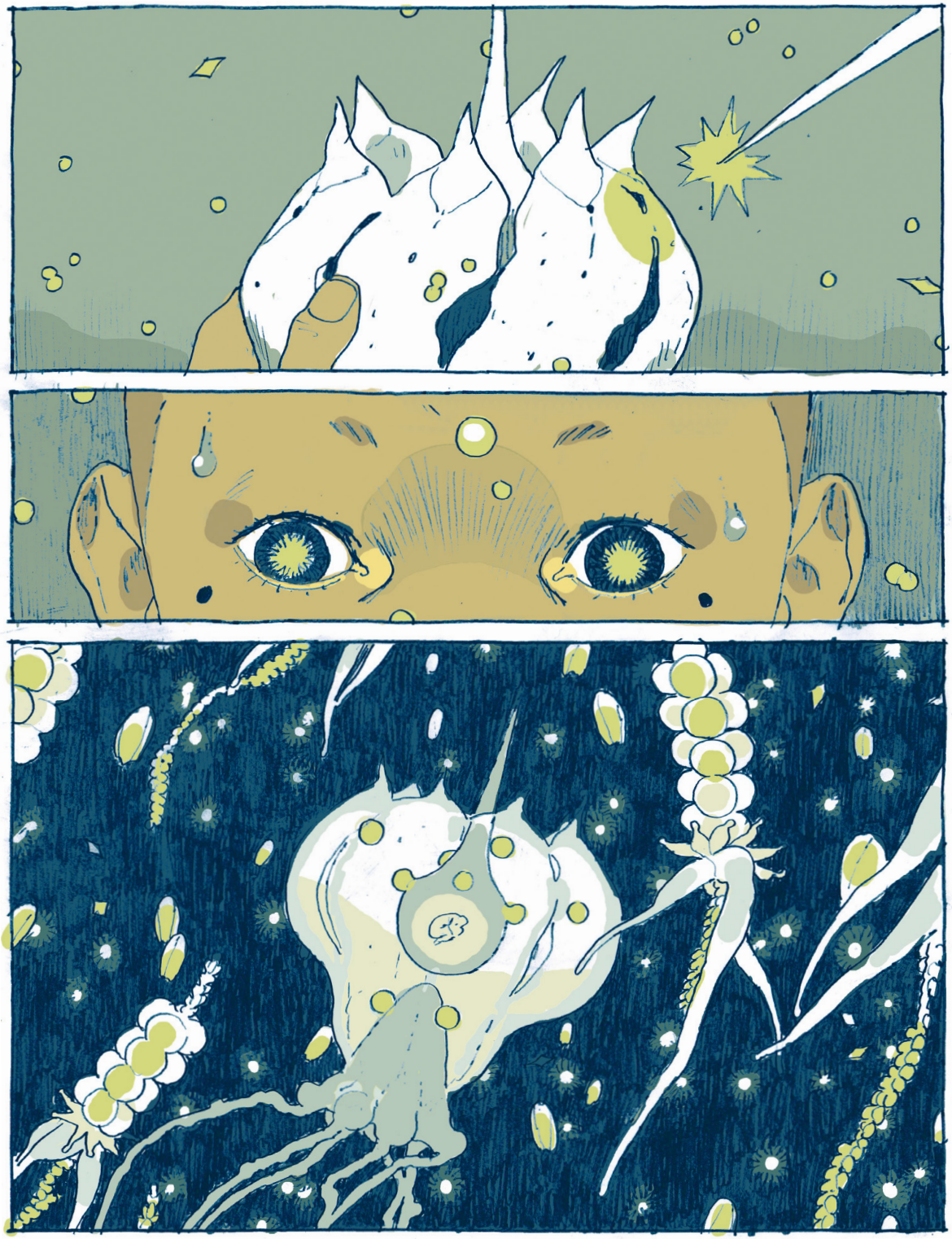


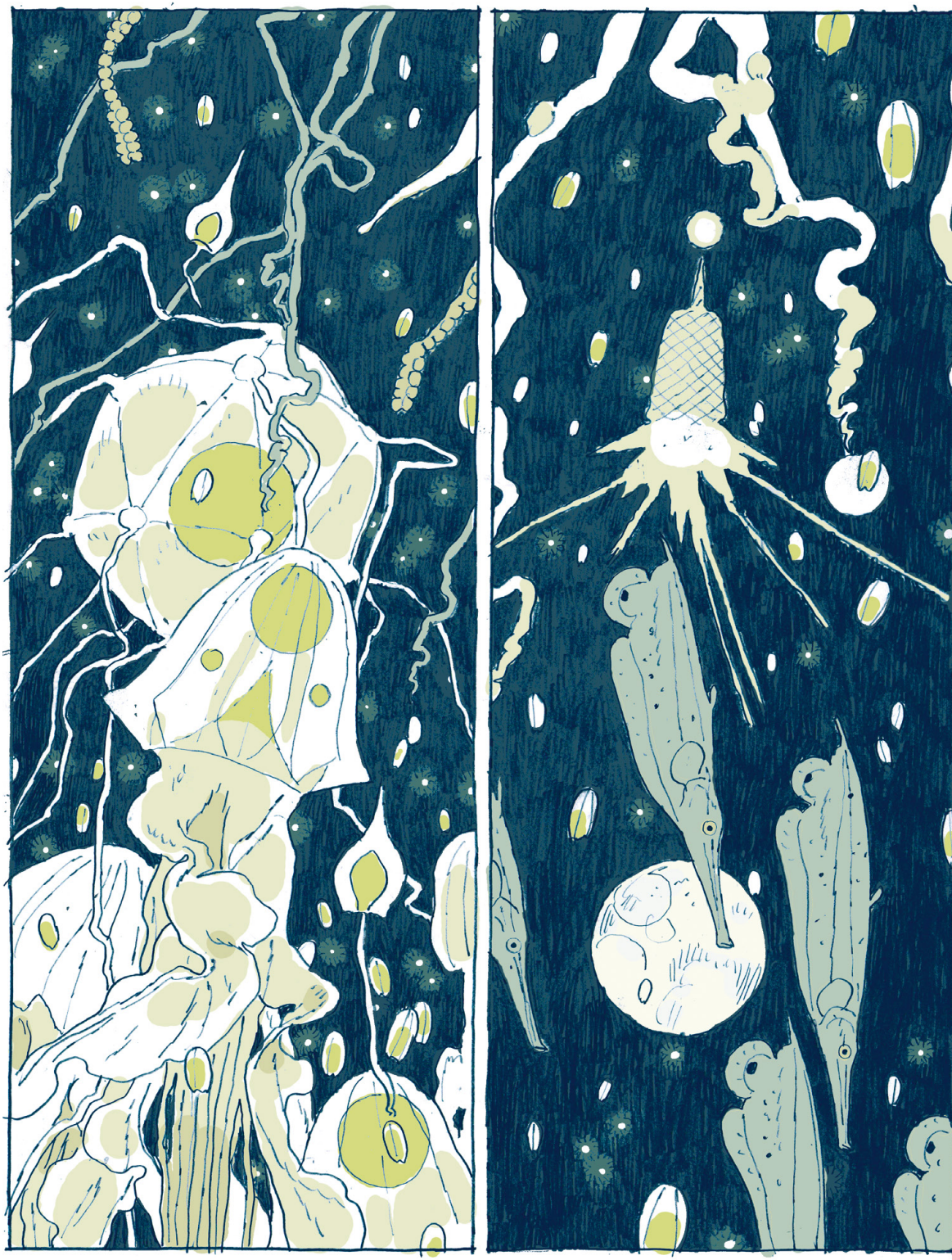
THEN: MOLDS AND FUNGI DIG THEIR MYCELIA INTO HER SKIN AND SHROUD HER IN A MIST OF SPORES. THE LATECOMERS - SLOW, QUIET CREATURES - HAUNT THIS FOREST-WITHOUT-TREES.

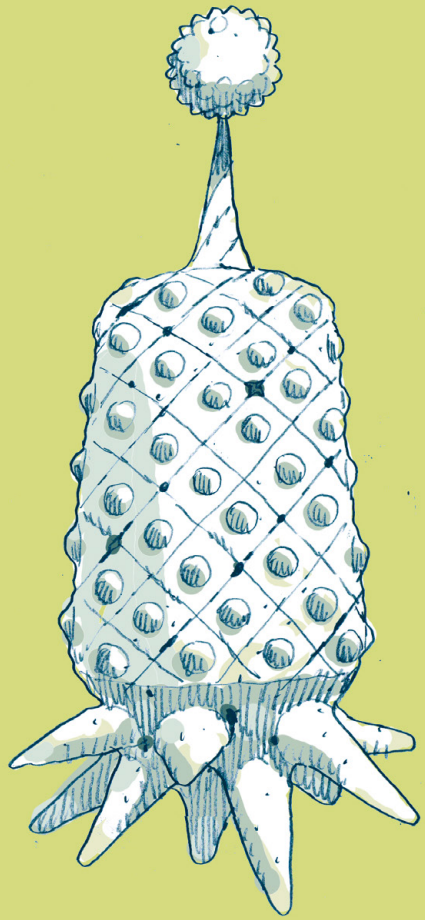

2.
• THE BONE-CUTTERS •



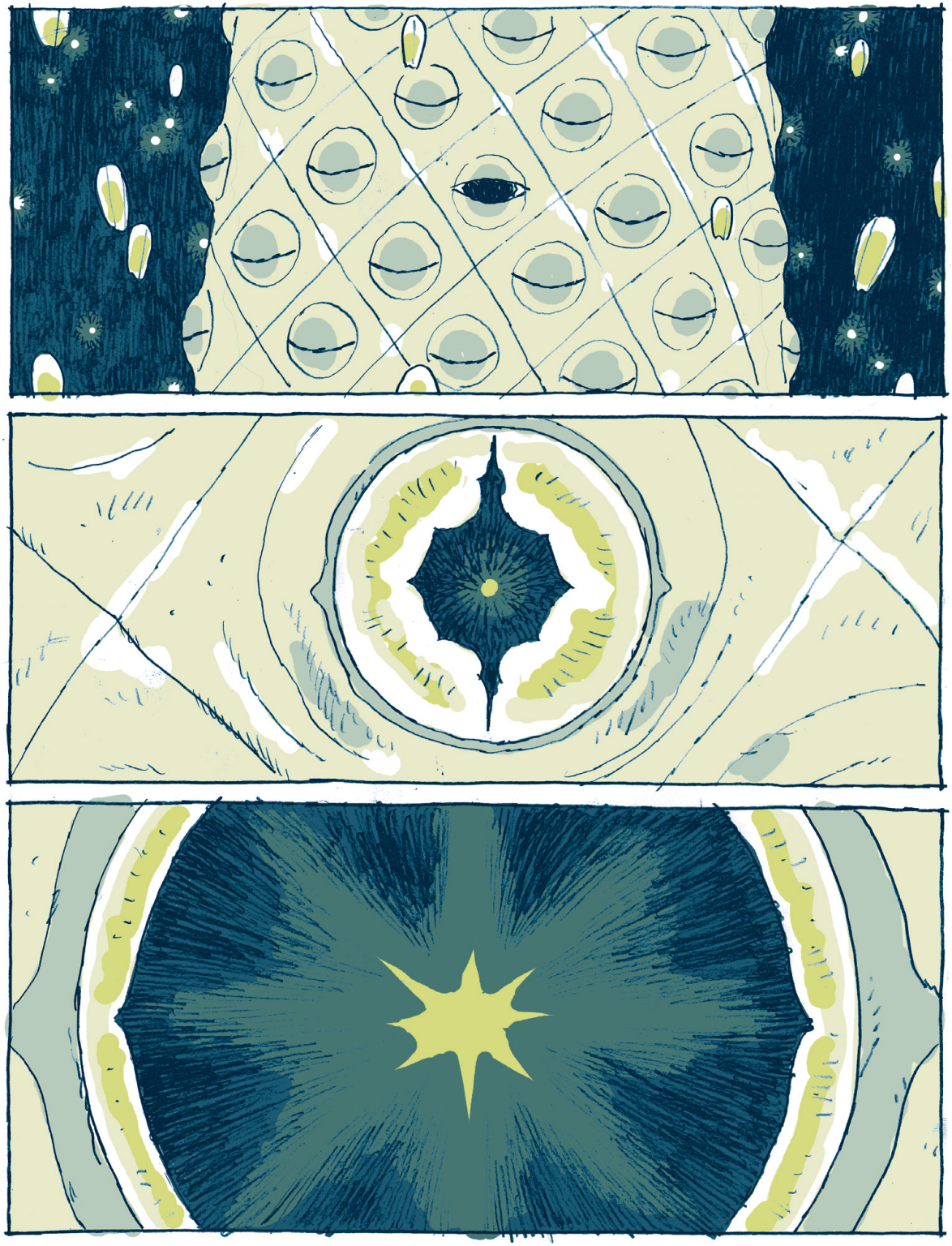


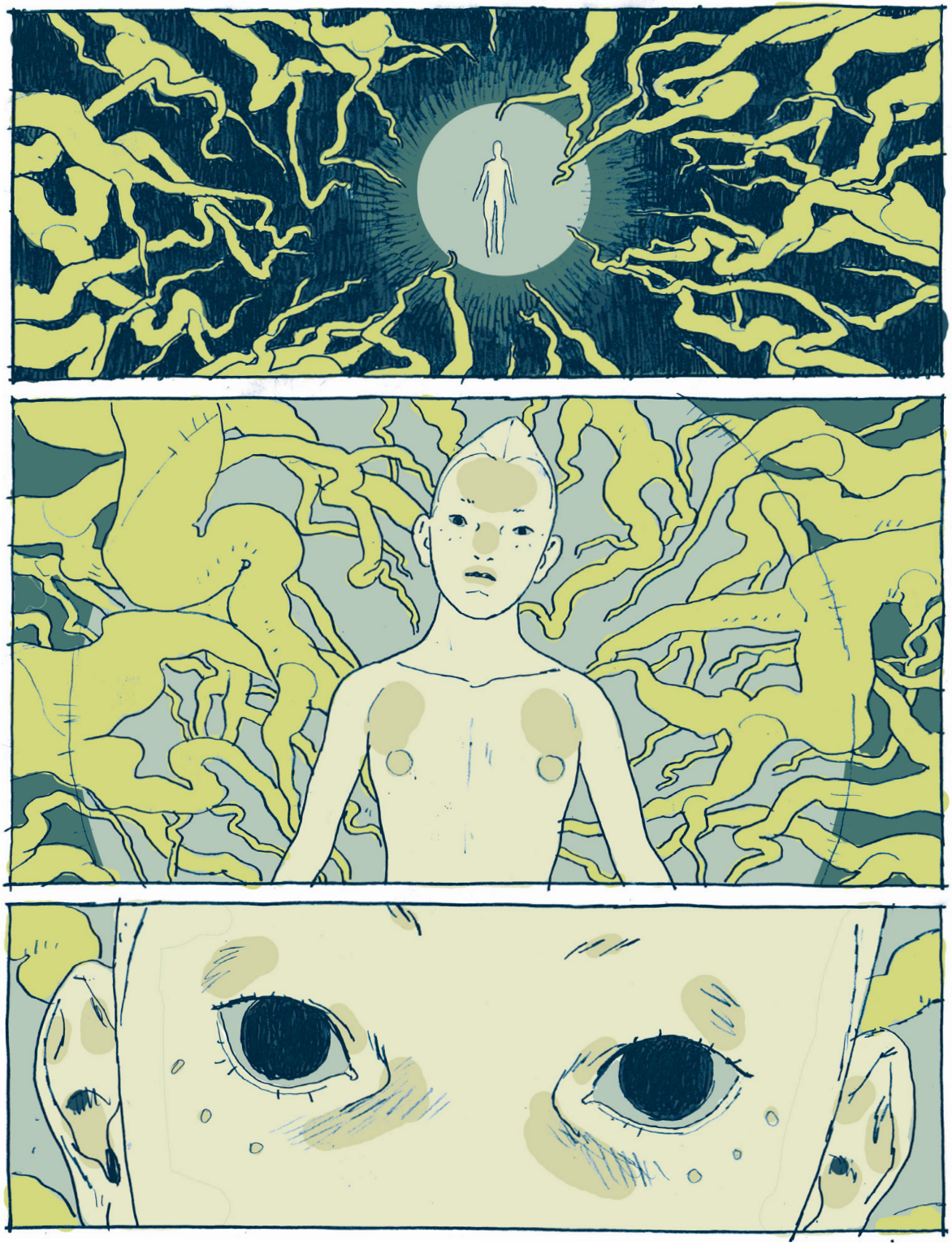


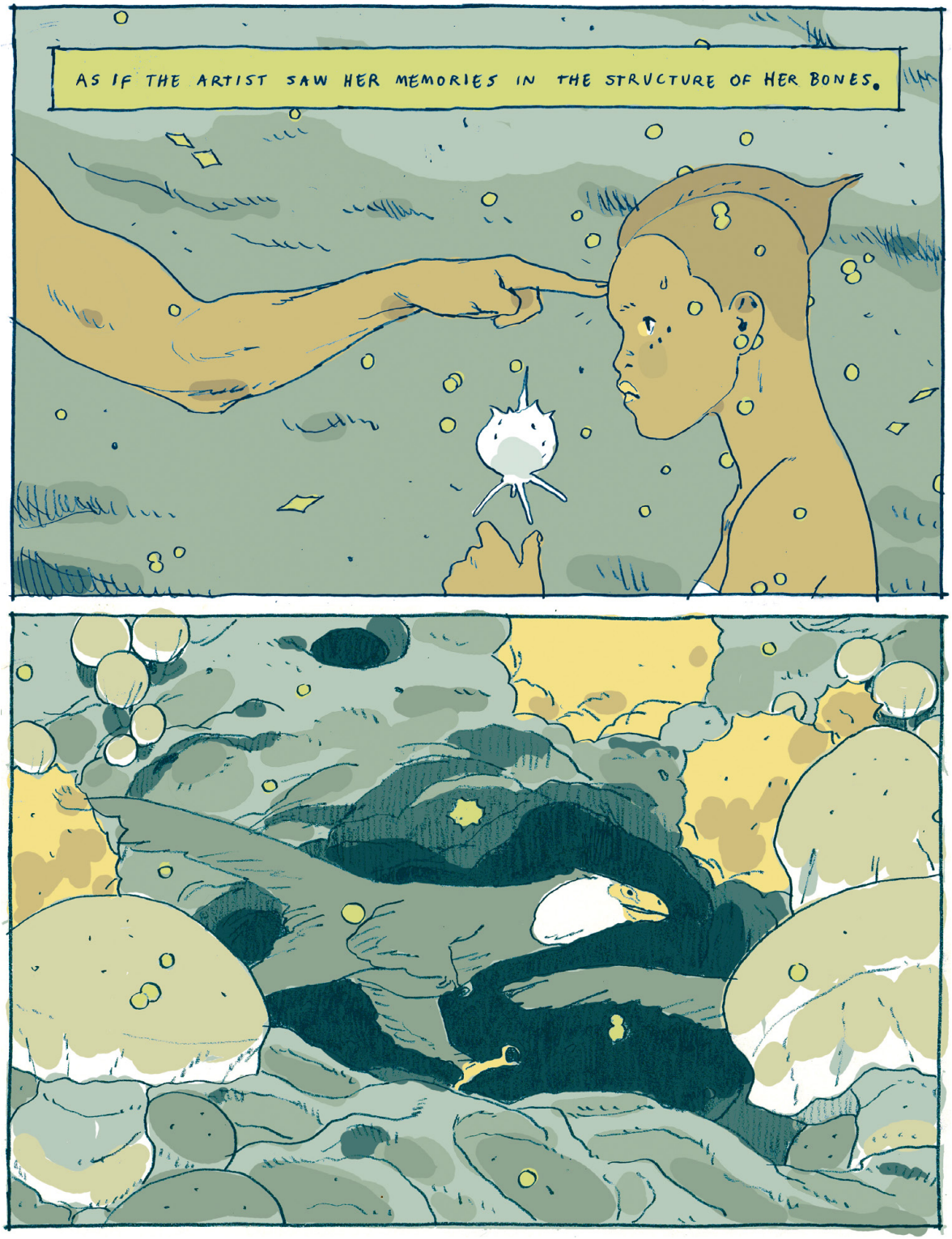


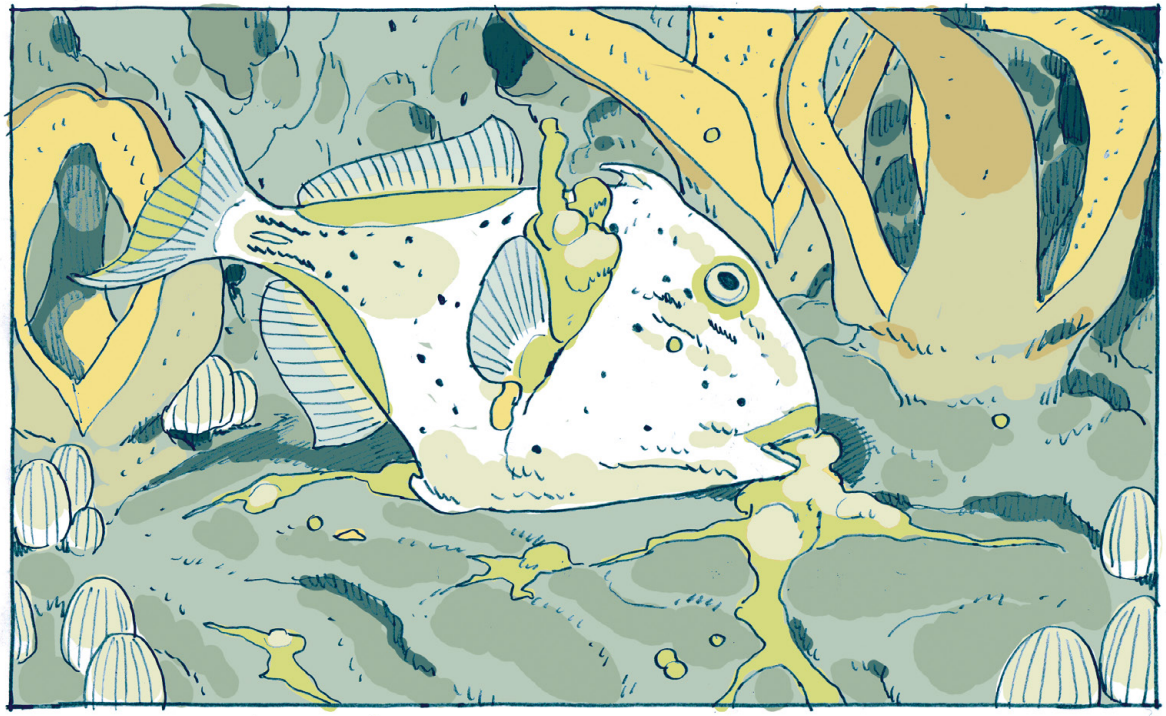


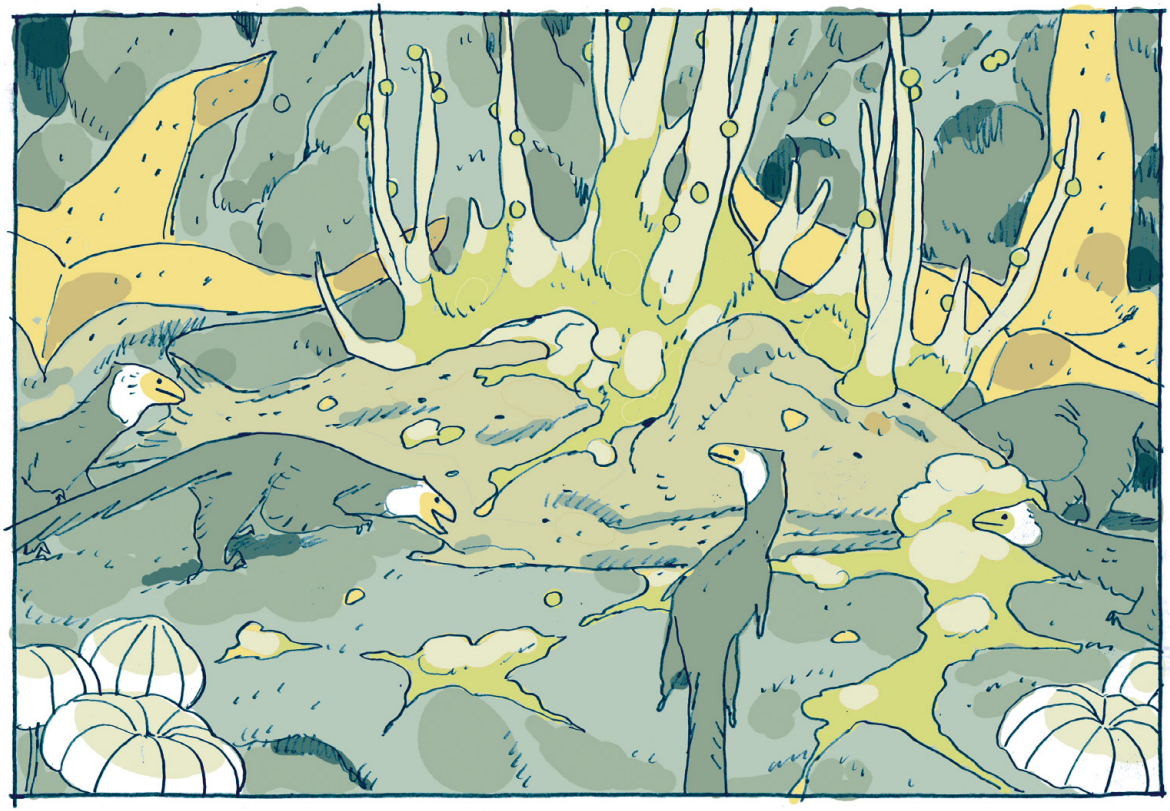
THE FRAGILE BEASTS OF THE UPPER SKIES SELDOM REACH THE GROUND INTACT. YET THERE ARE WHALE-BONE ARTIFACTS DEPICTING THEM WITH STRIKING ACCURACY-

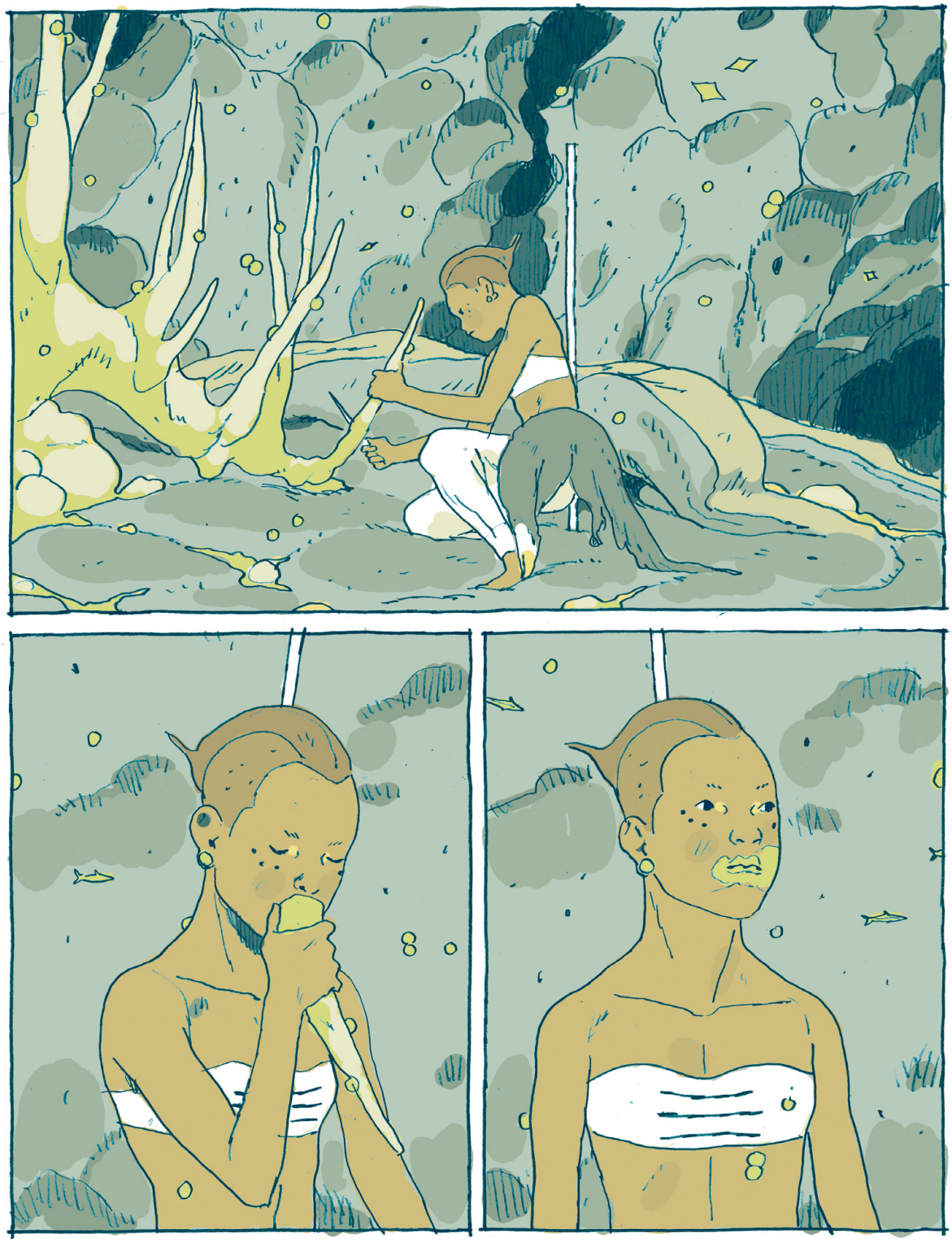




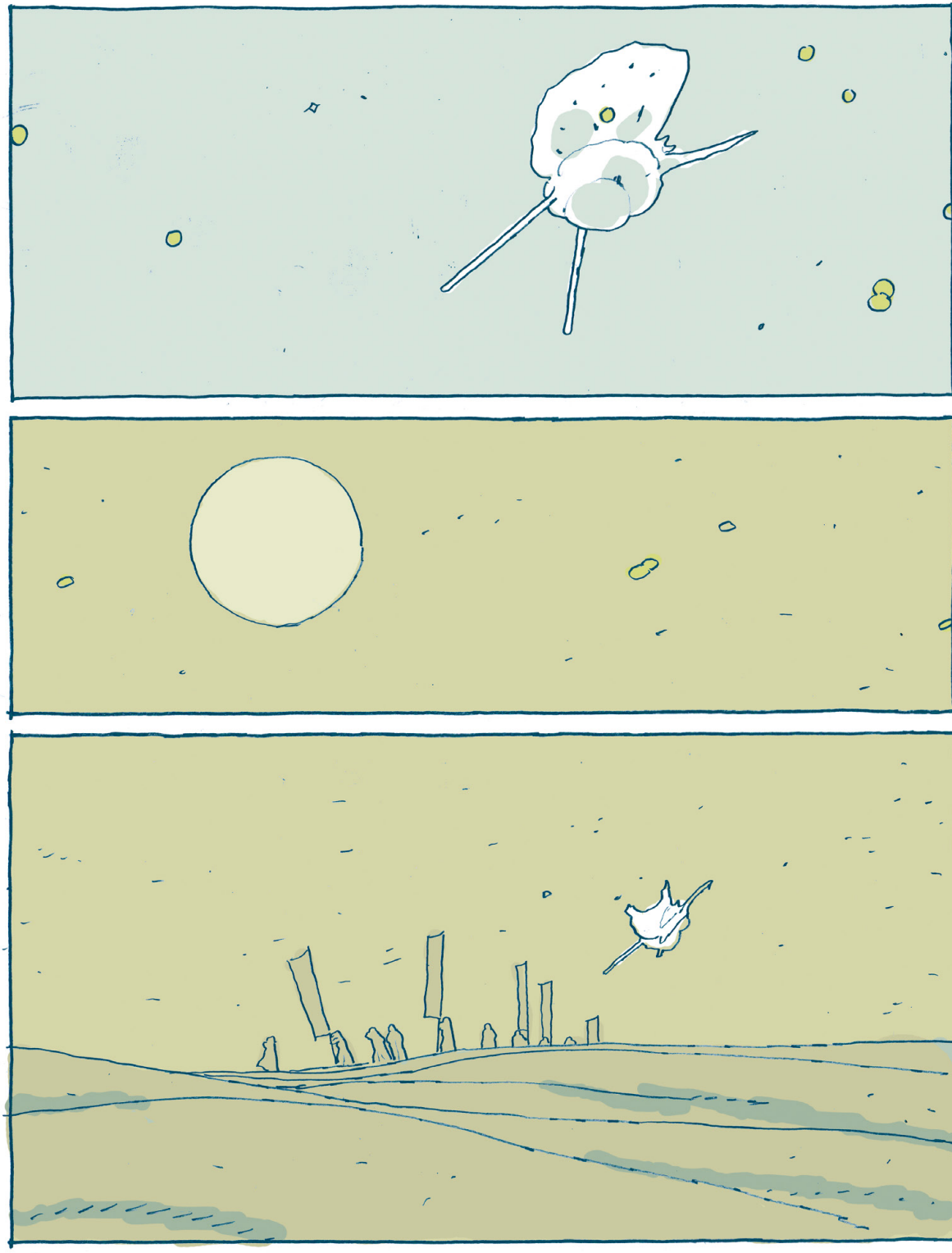

AS IF THE ARTIST SAW HER MEMORIES IN THE STRUCTURE OF HER BONES.

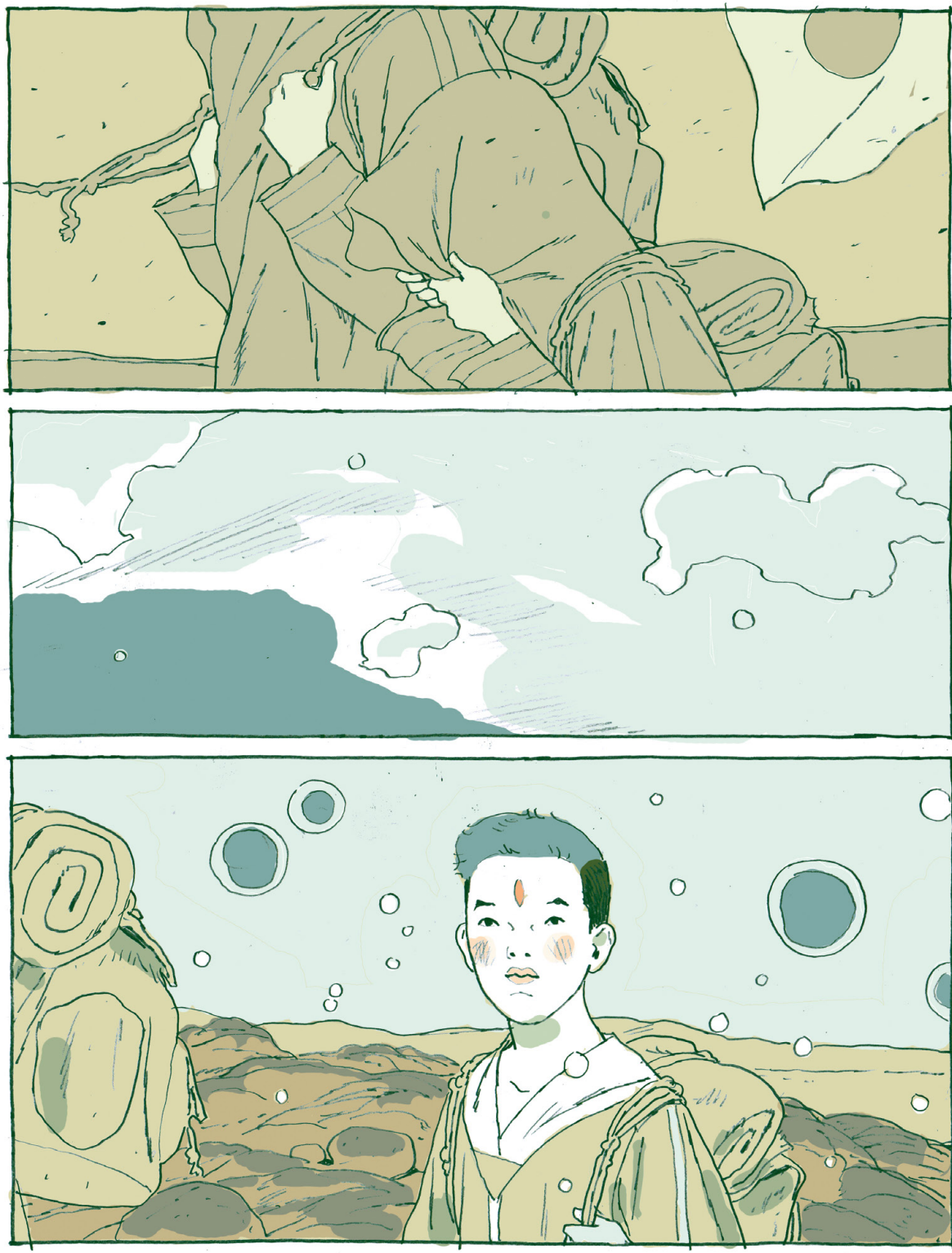


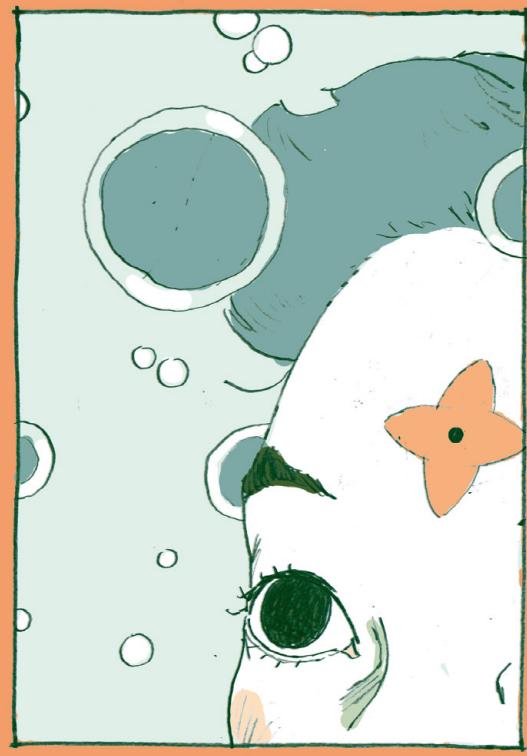




SNAP

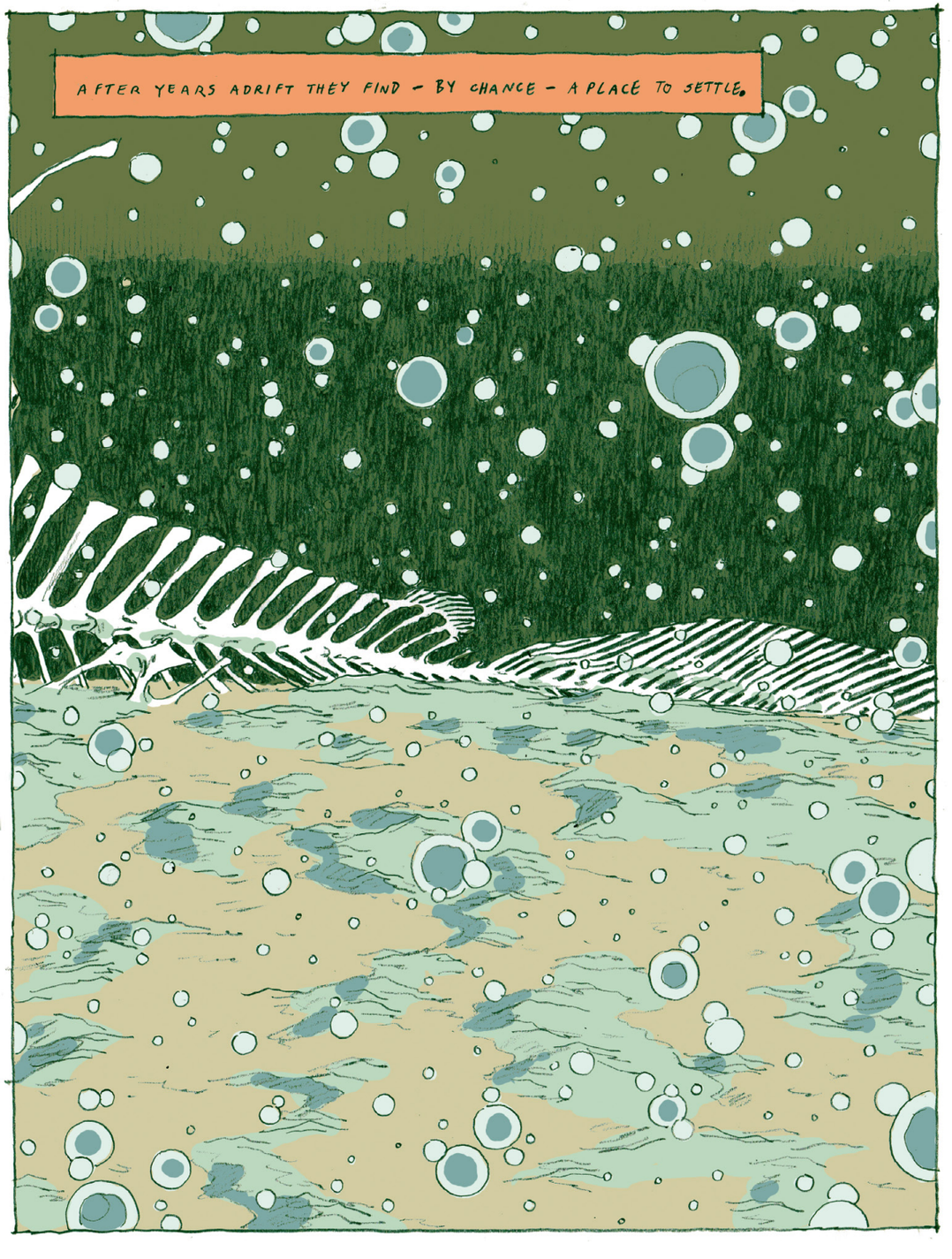


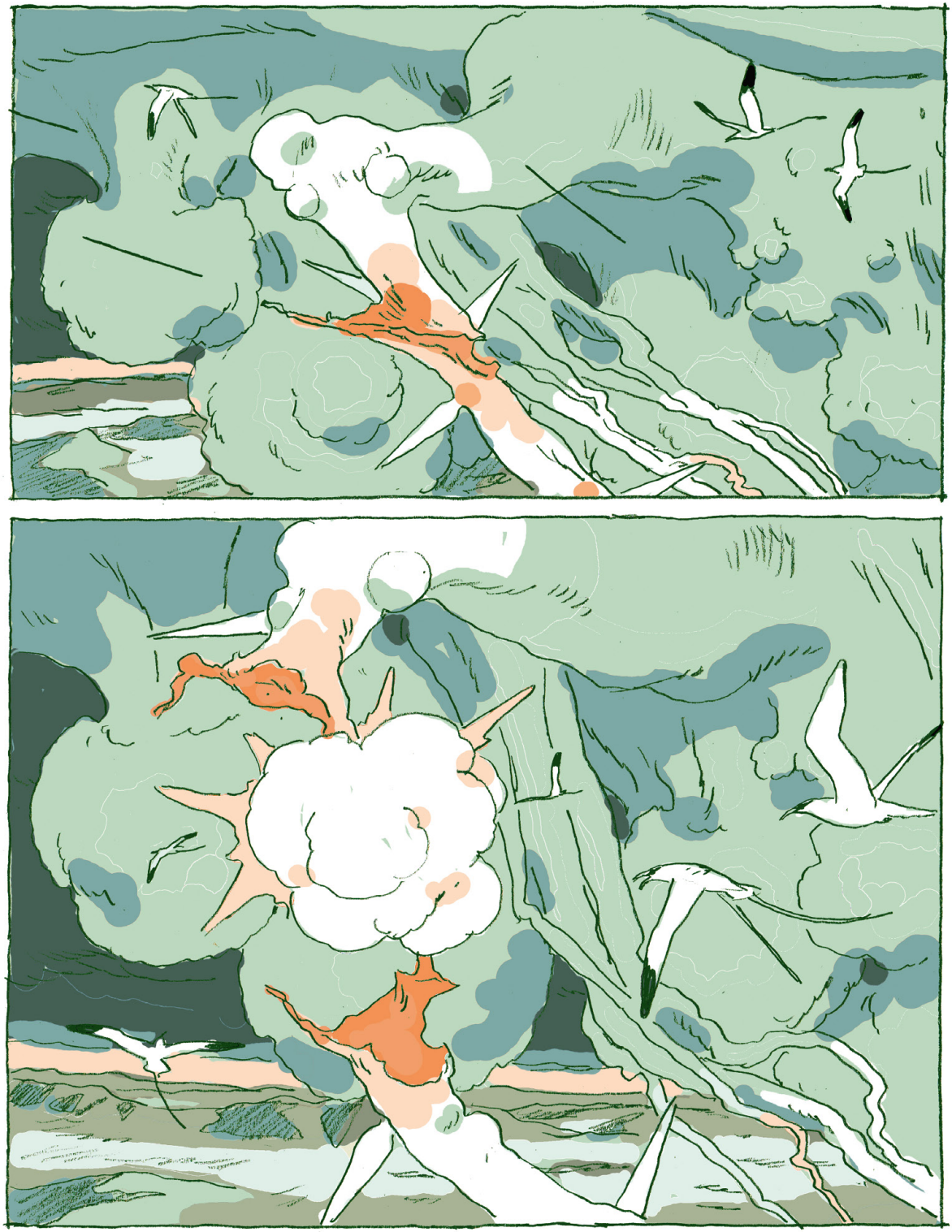


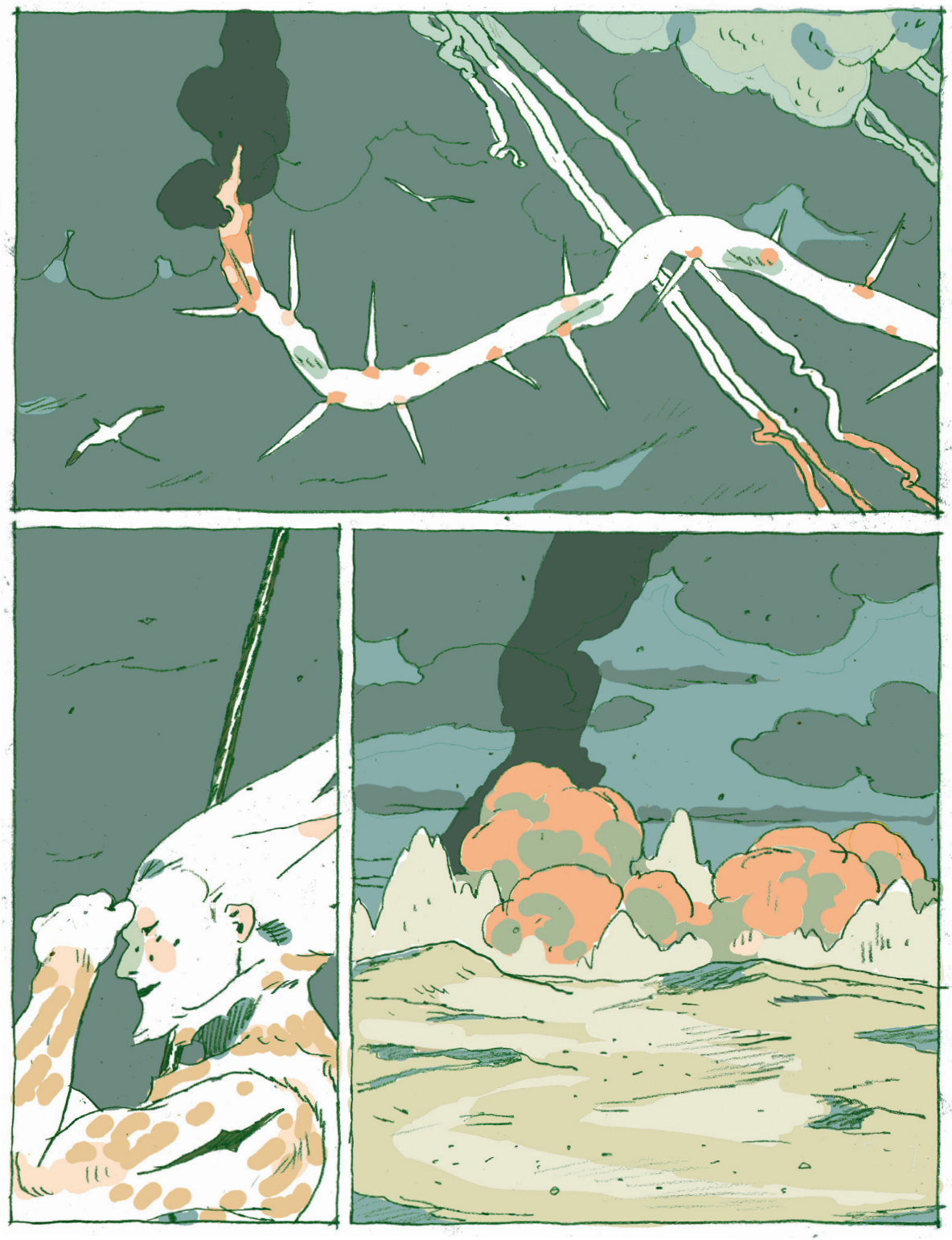


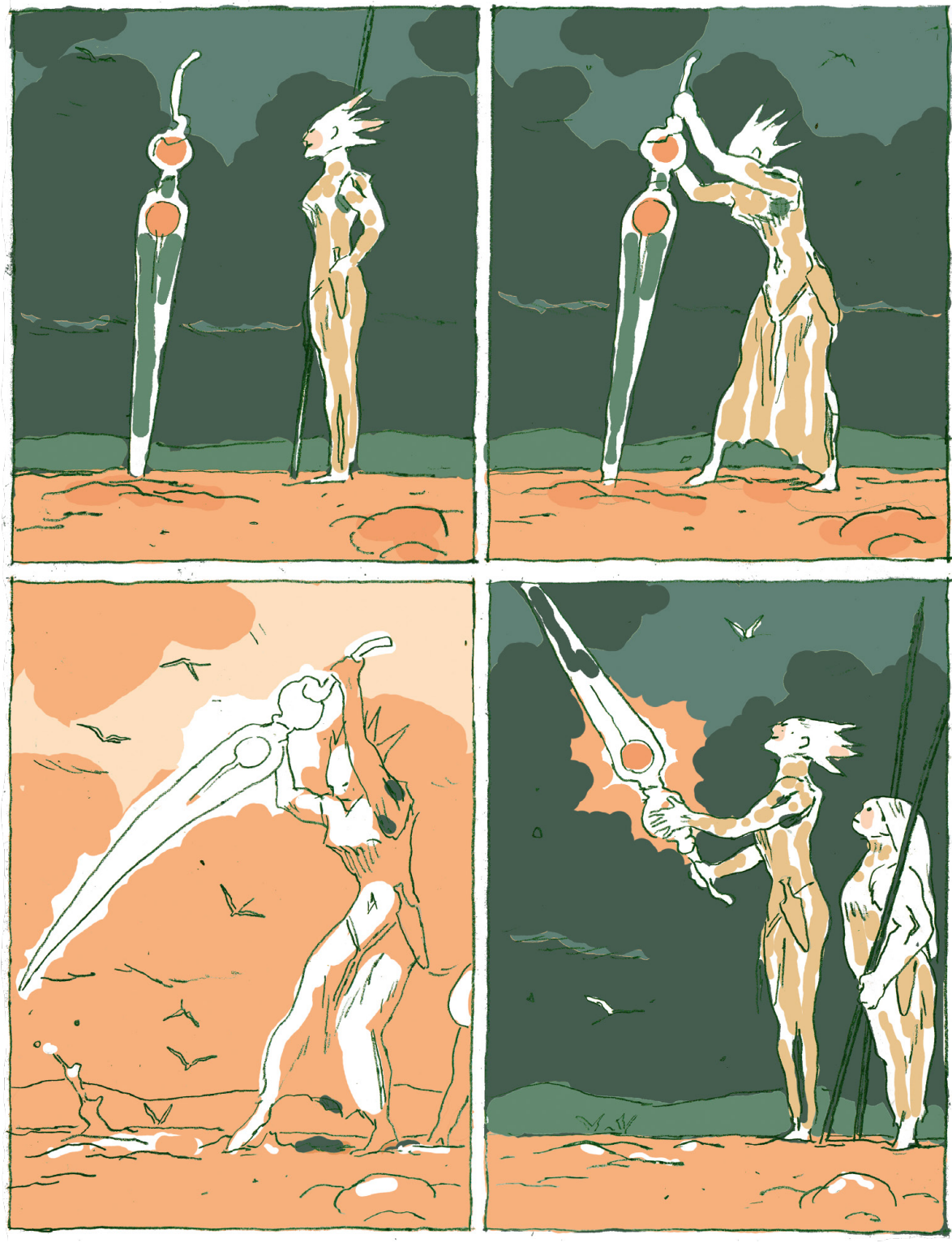
SKY-LIFE EMBRYONES: MILLIONS AND MILLIONS CLOUD THE ATMOSPHERE. ONLY A PRECIOUS FEW WILL LIVE TO ADULTHOOD.

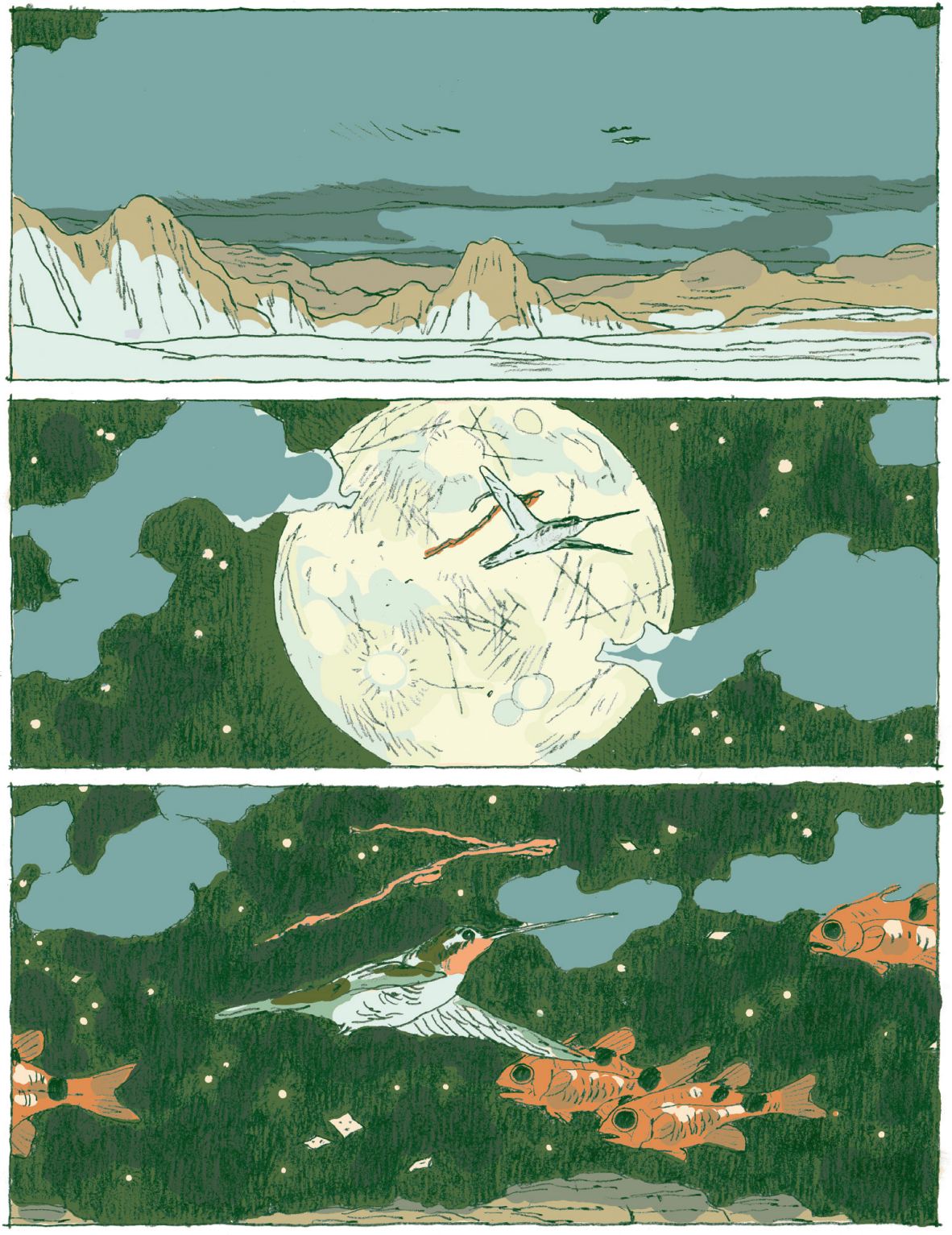
3.
• THE BARBARIANS •

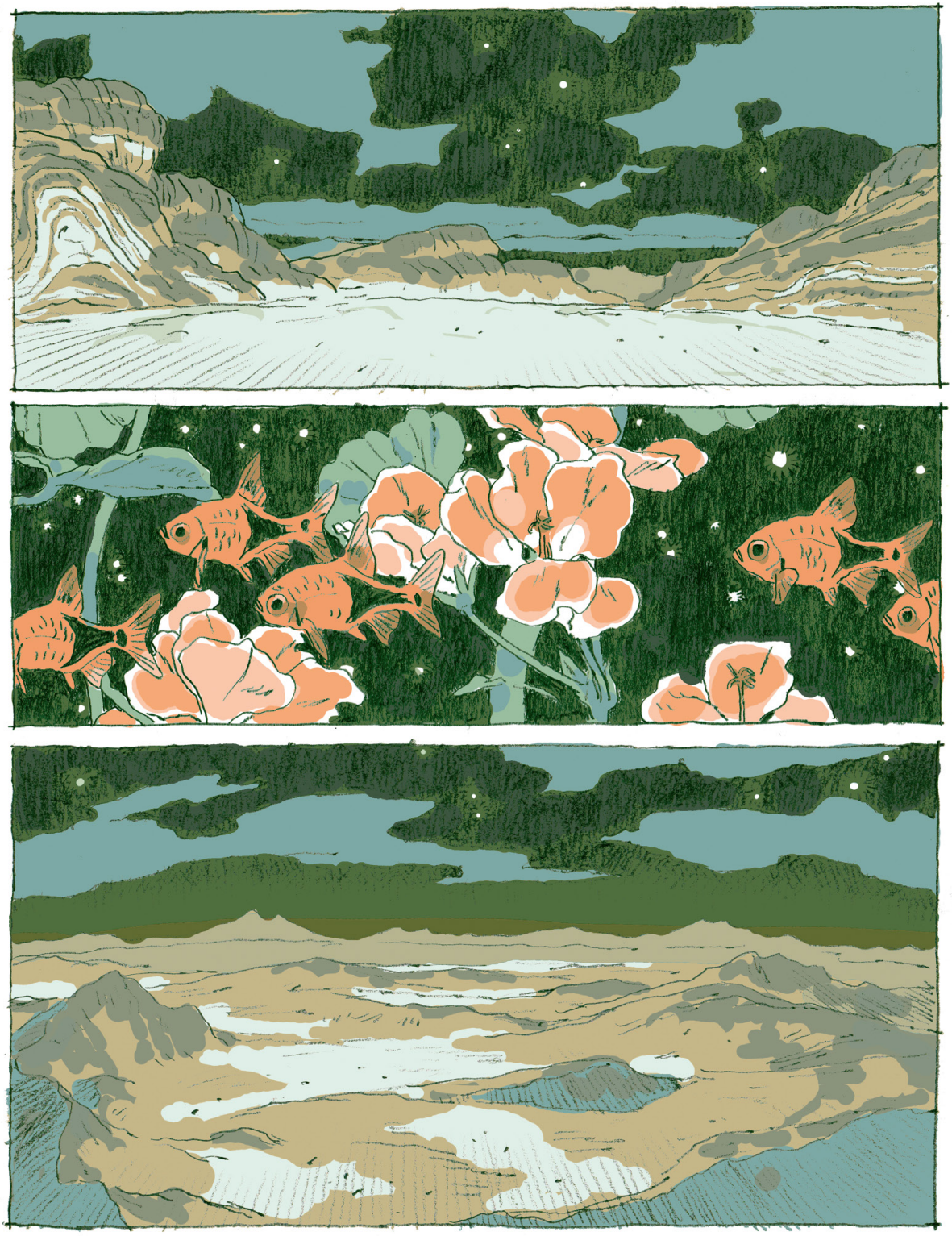

AFTER YEARS ADRIFT THEY FIND – BY CHANCE – A PLACE TO SETTLE.

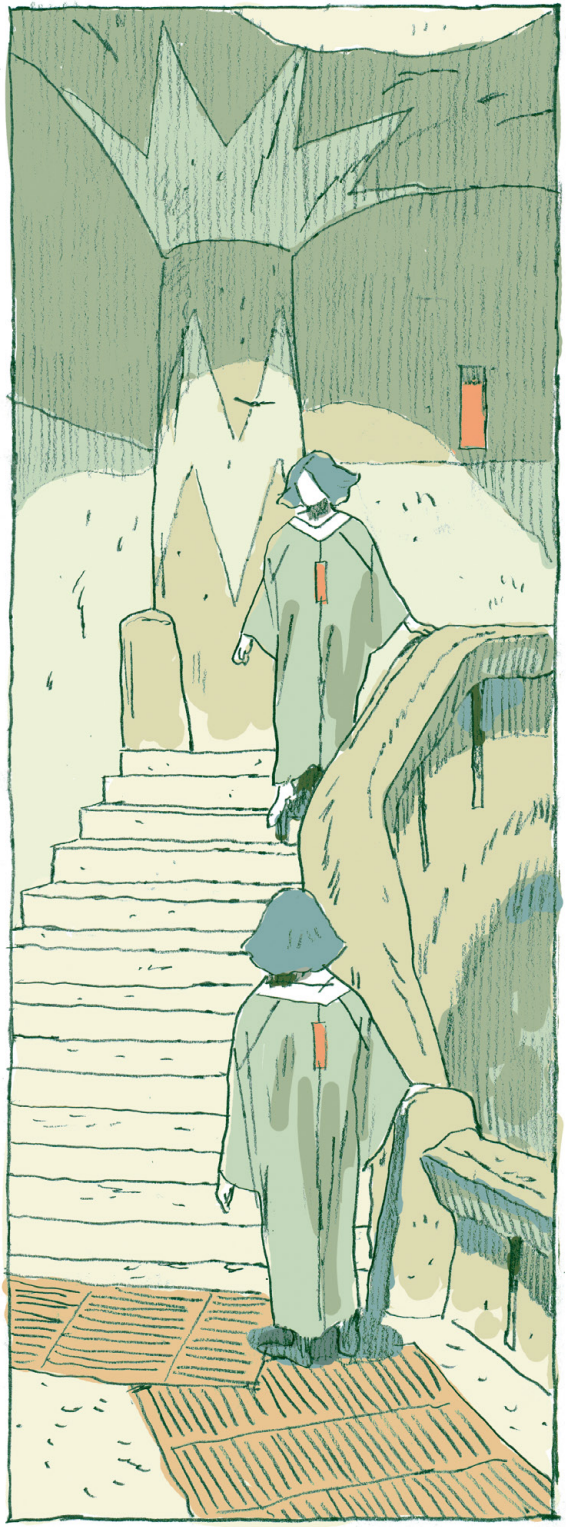


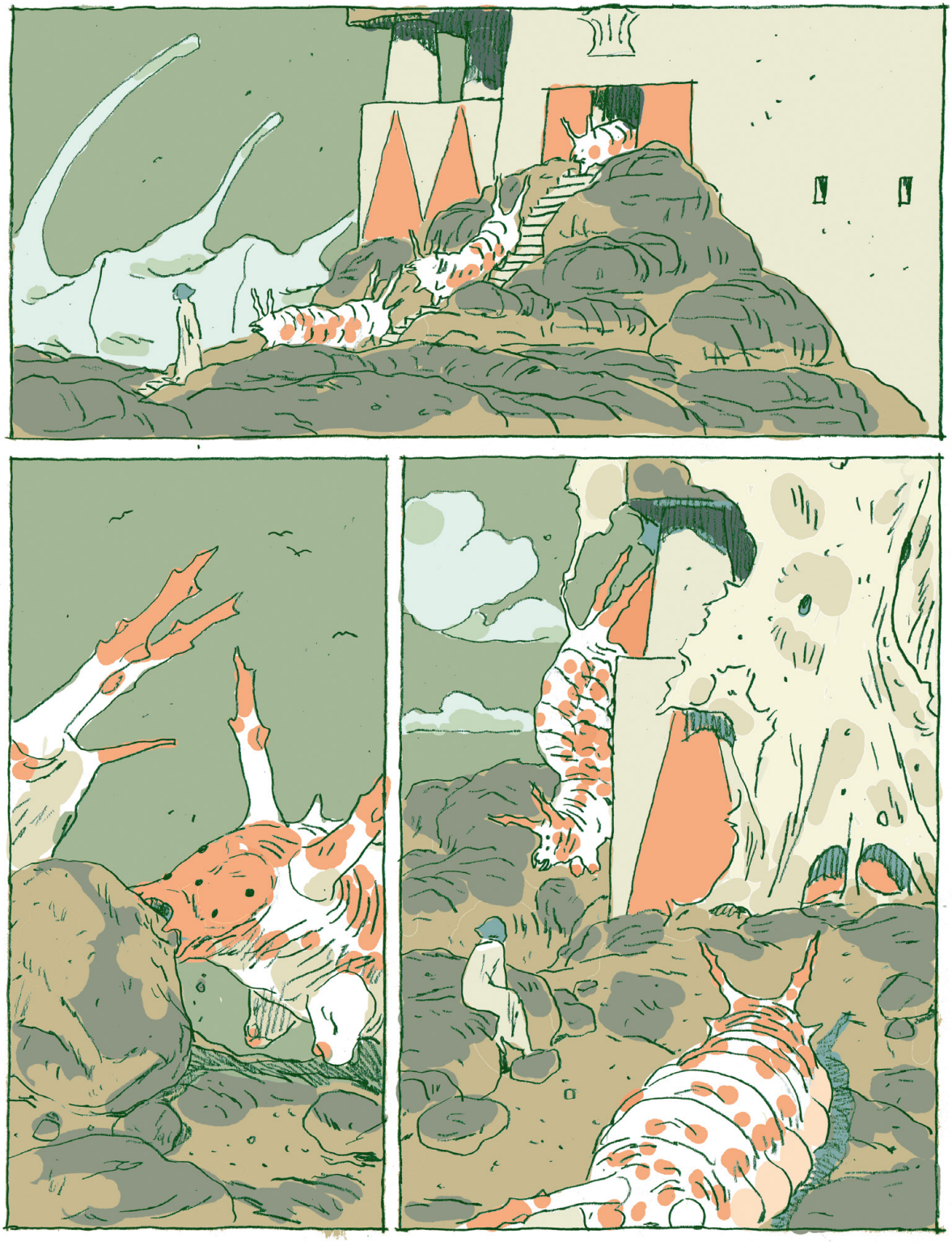


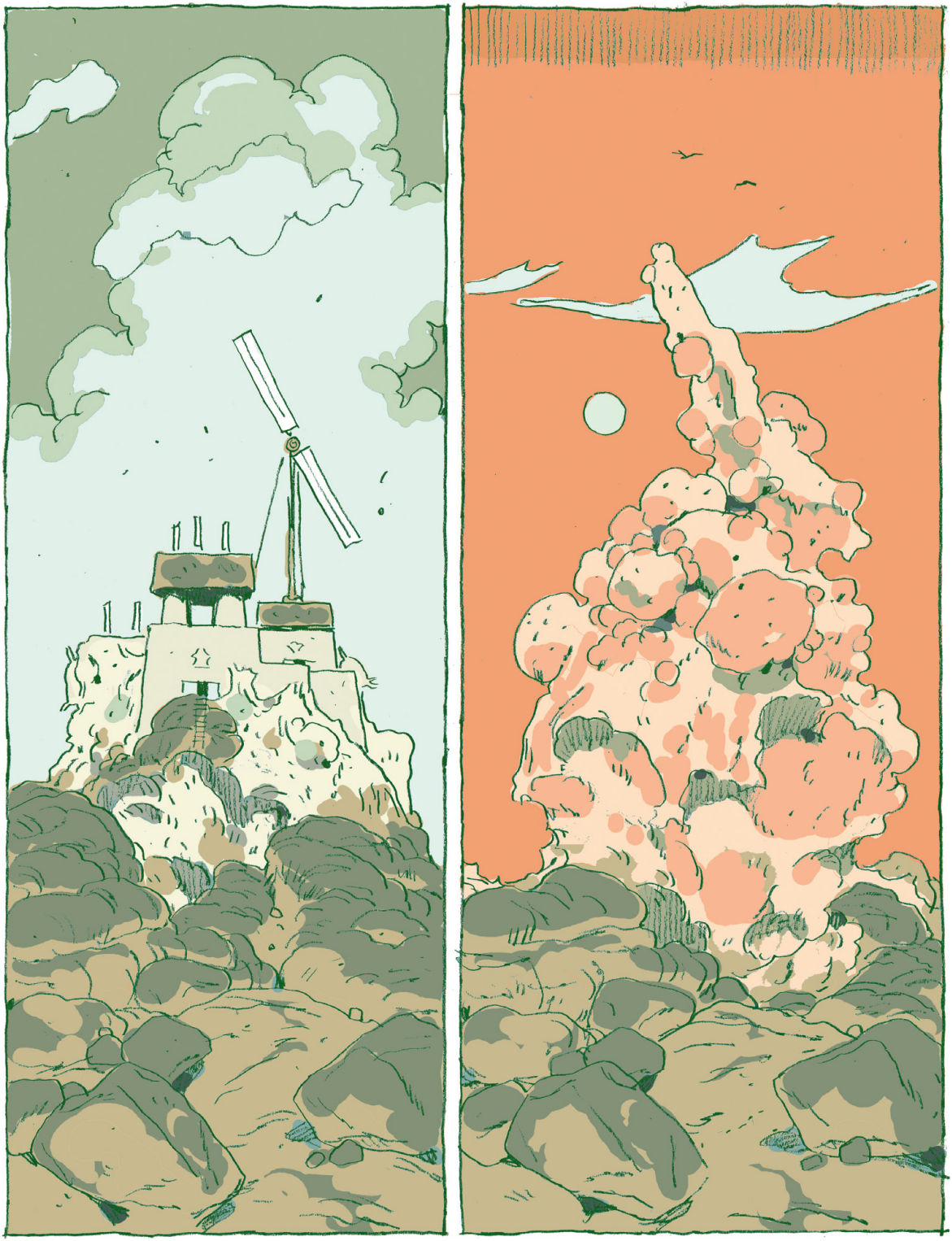


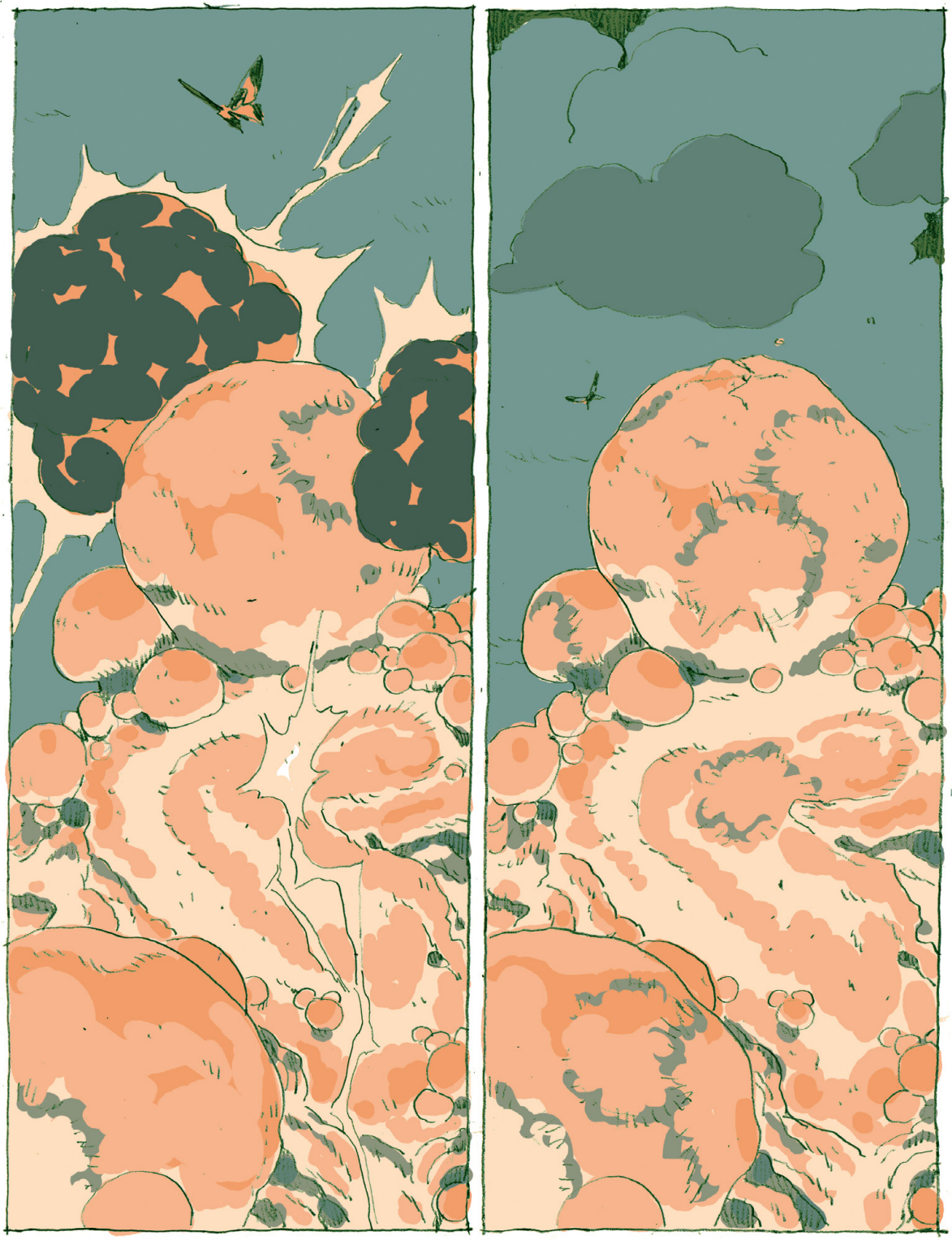




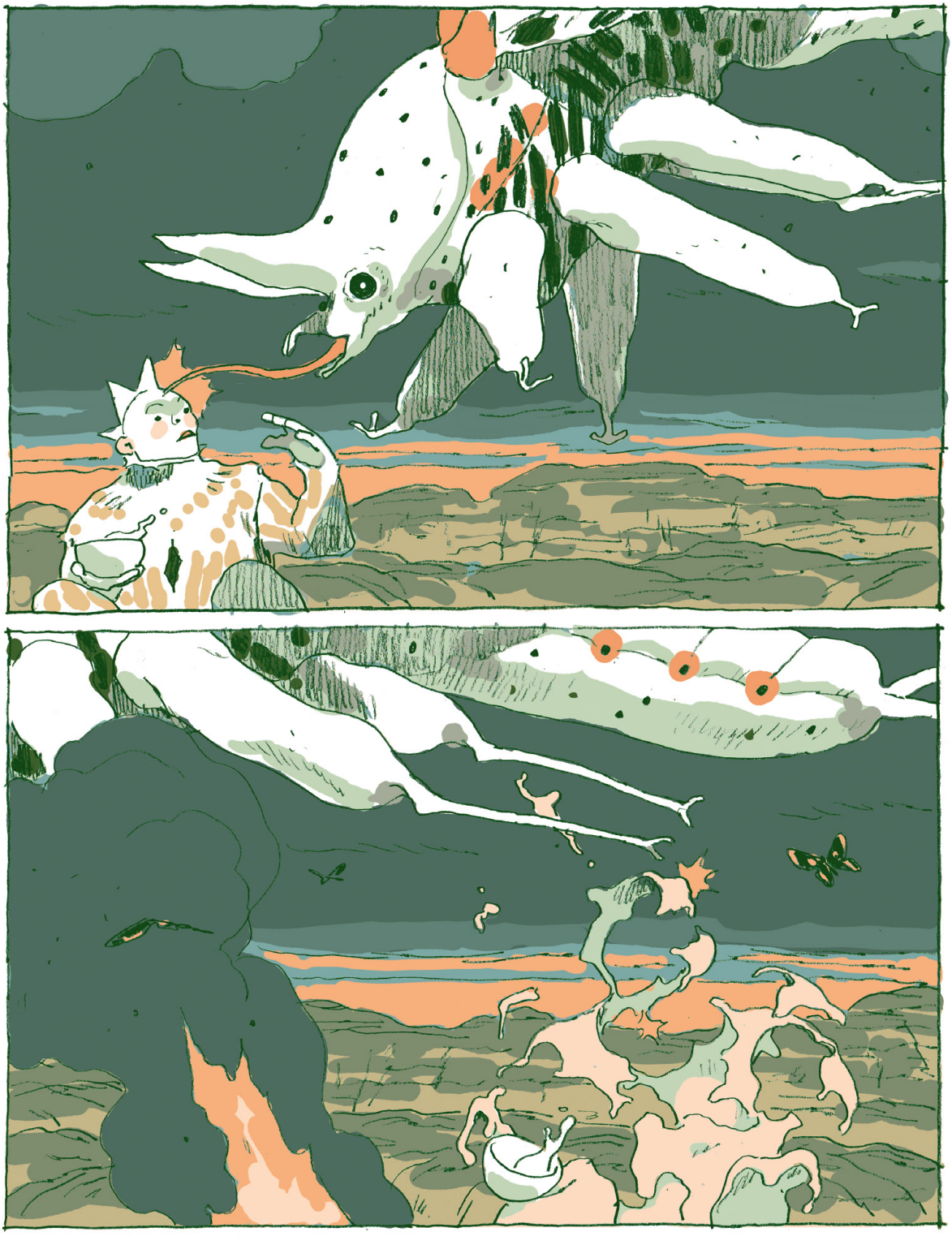




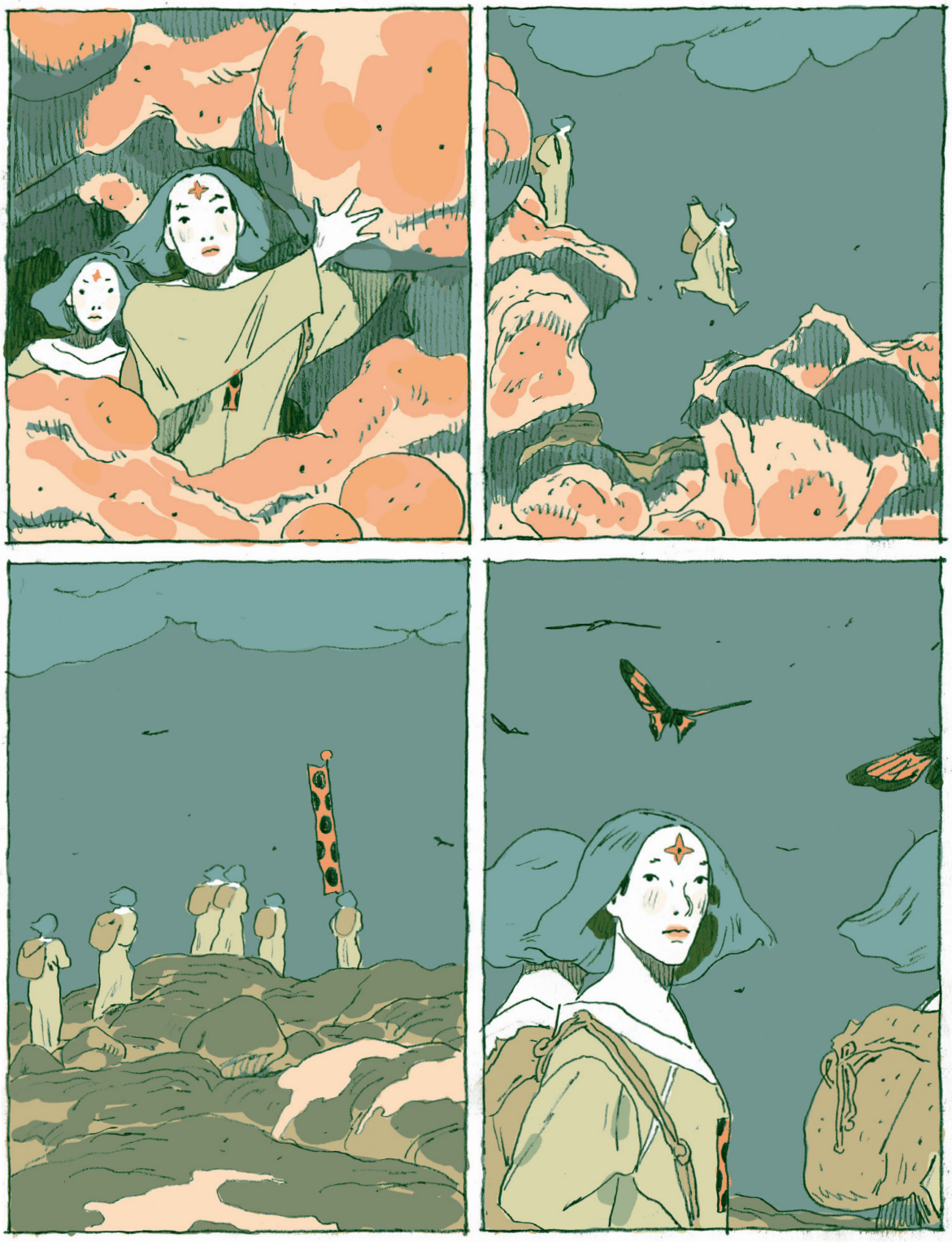


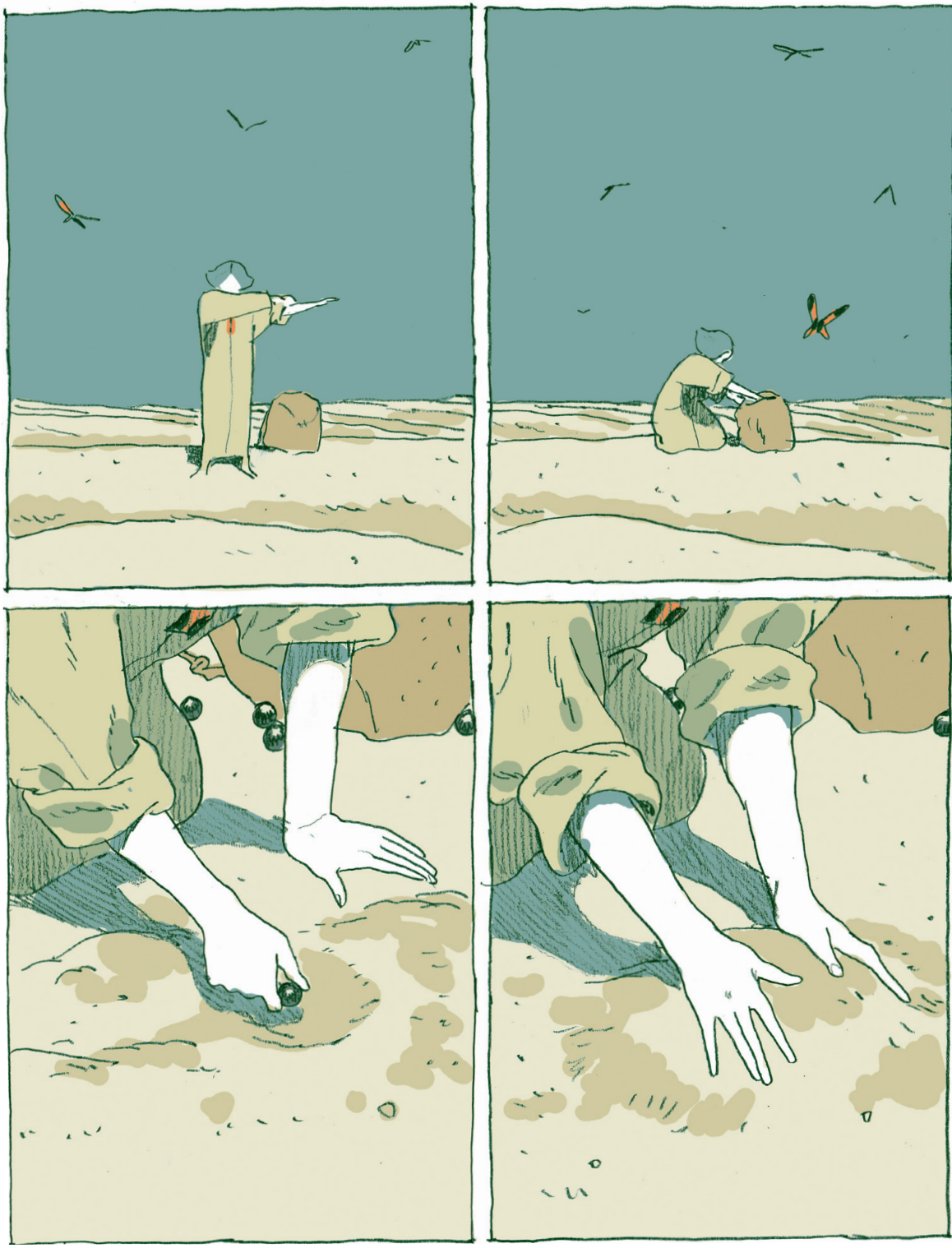


DISTURBED IN THEIR SLEEP -
ONCE THEY EMERGE, FULLY GROWN -



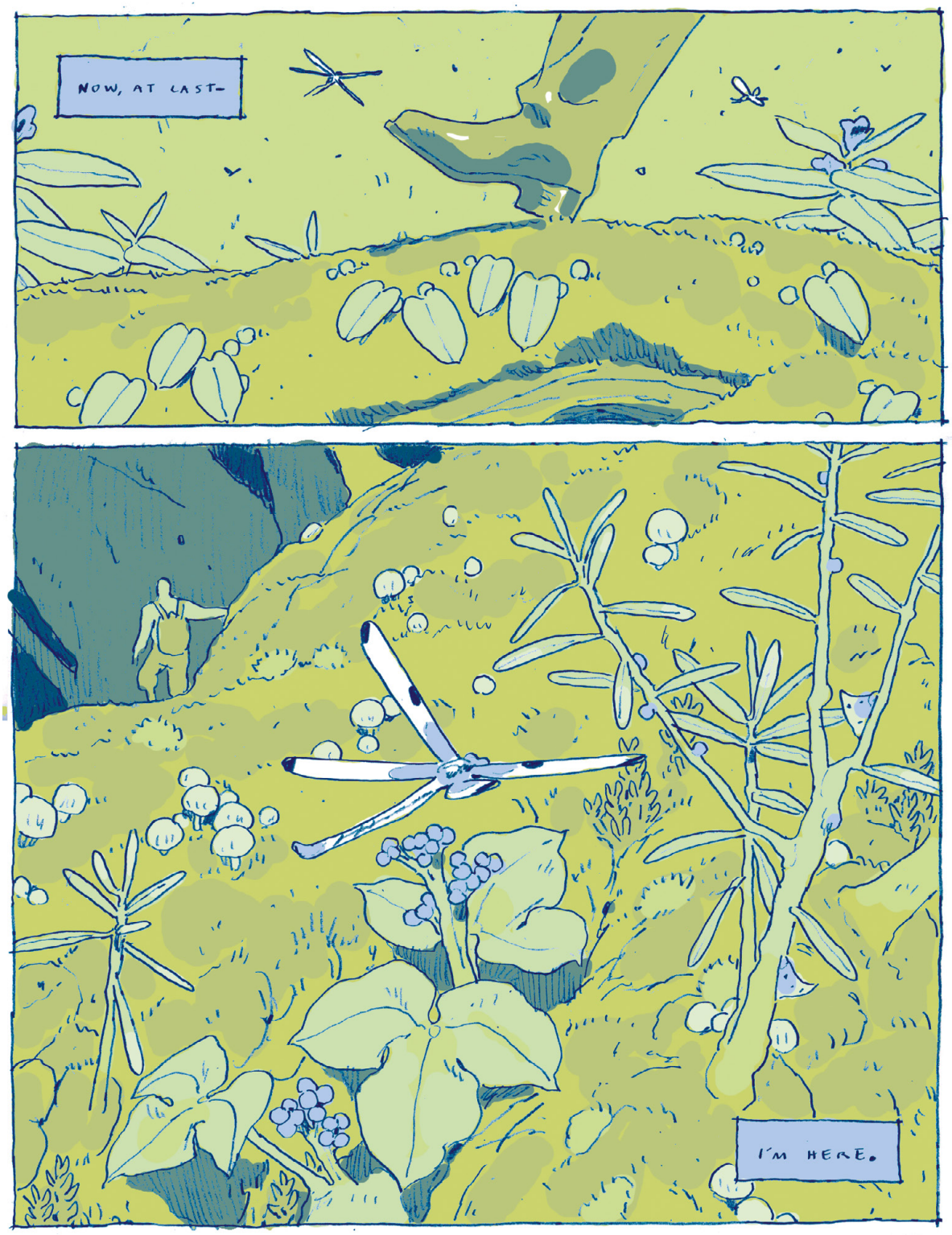
THE KYROPREXII ARE BORN ANGRY.



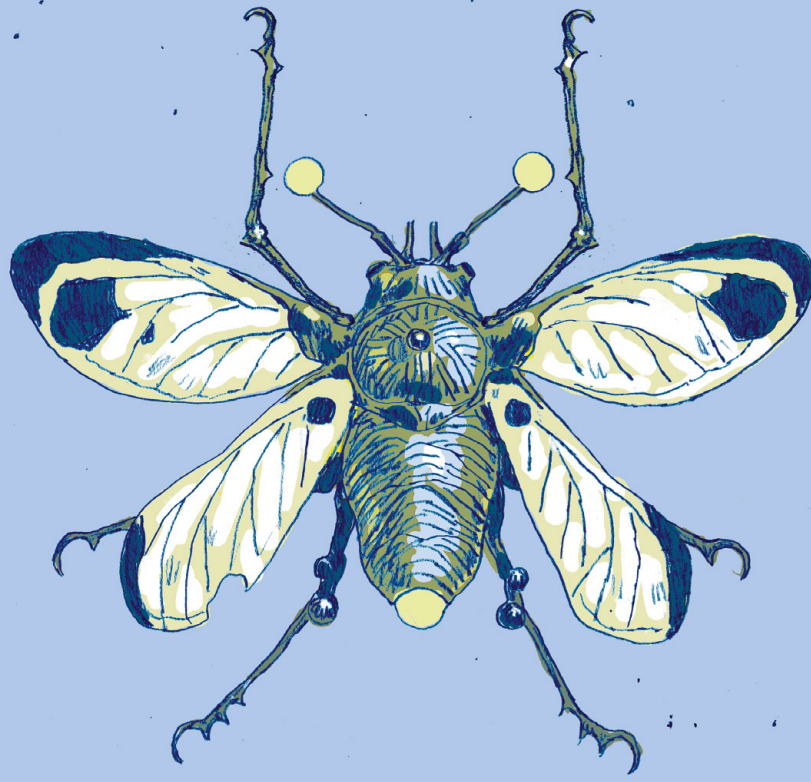


THE LUSH PHASE: IN WHICH SHE IS BURIED IN TREES AND GREENERY. SOON HER BONES ARE NO LONGER VISIBLE. THE ONLY TRACE OF HER IS THE OUTLINE OF THIS NEW OASIS.

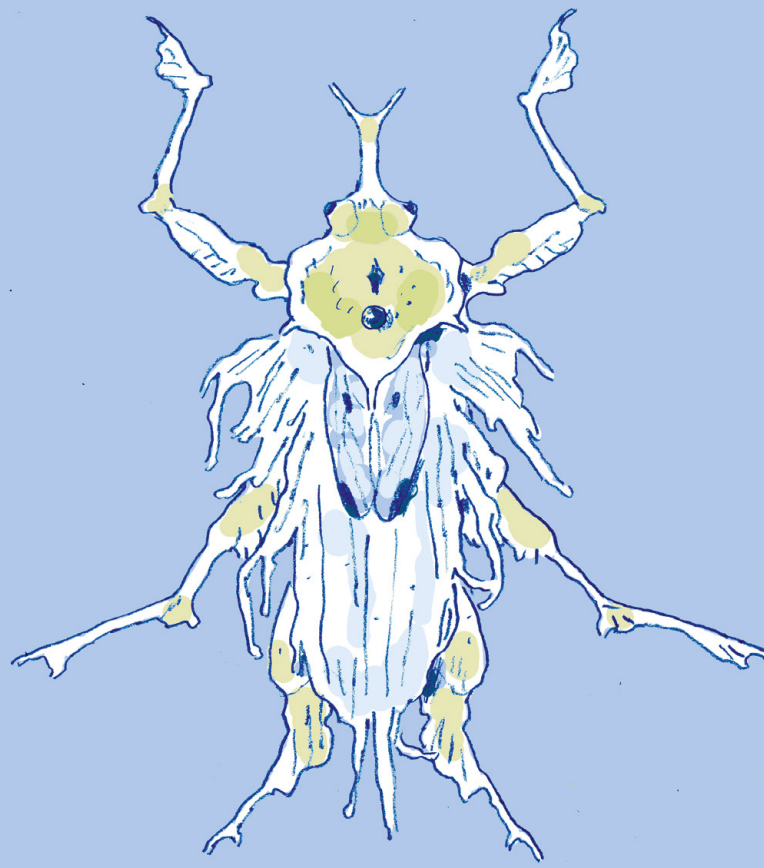
4.
• THE ENTOMOLOGIST •


NOW, AT LAST—
I'M HERE.

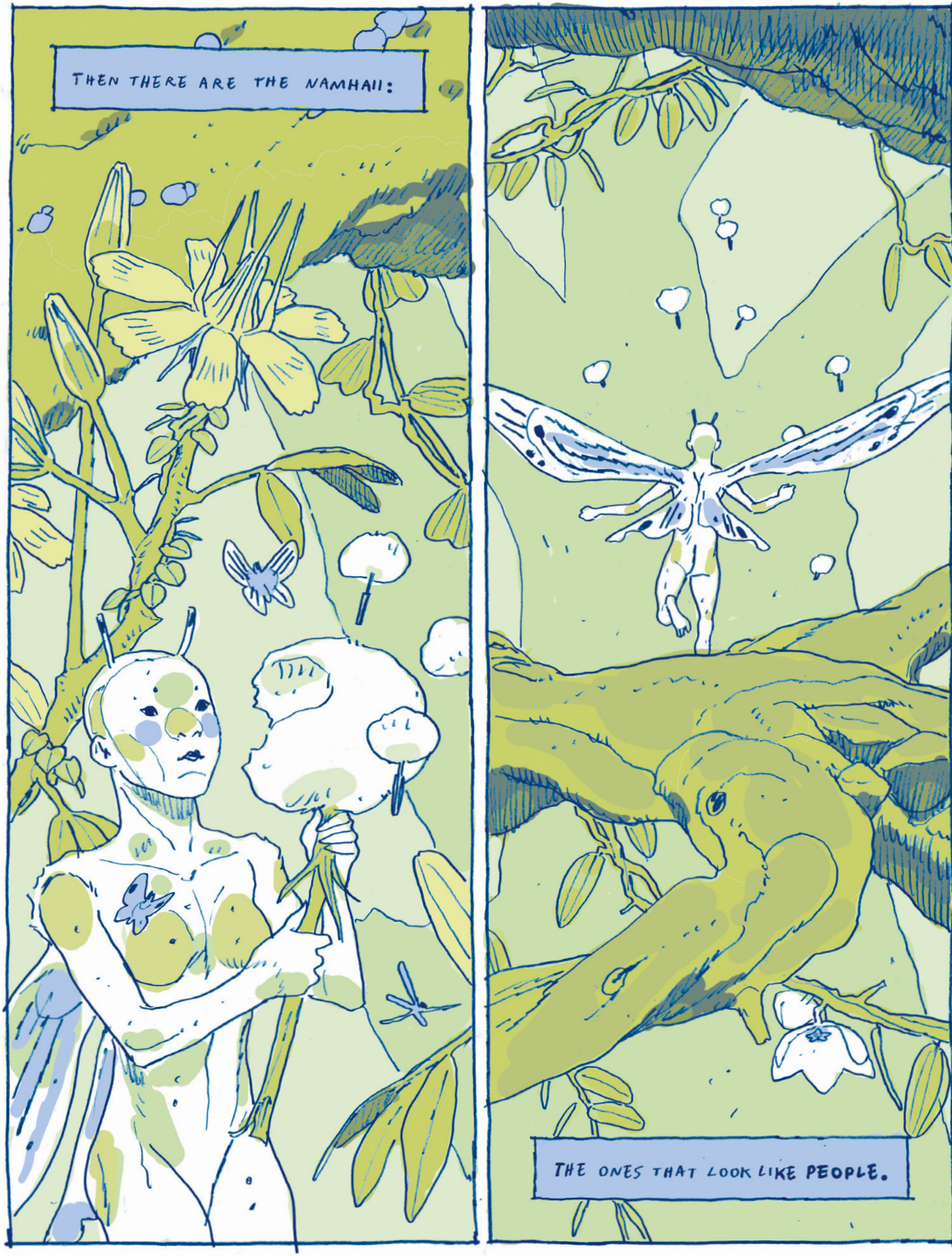
THIS IS THE AOT AT ITS FINEST:
THE AIR IS STILL-
FRAGRANT-
AAA-
KKKK
LOUD WITH INSECTS:

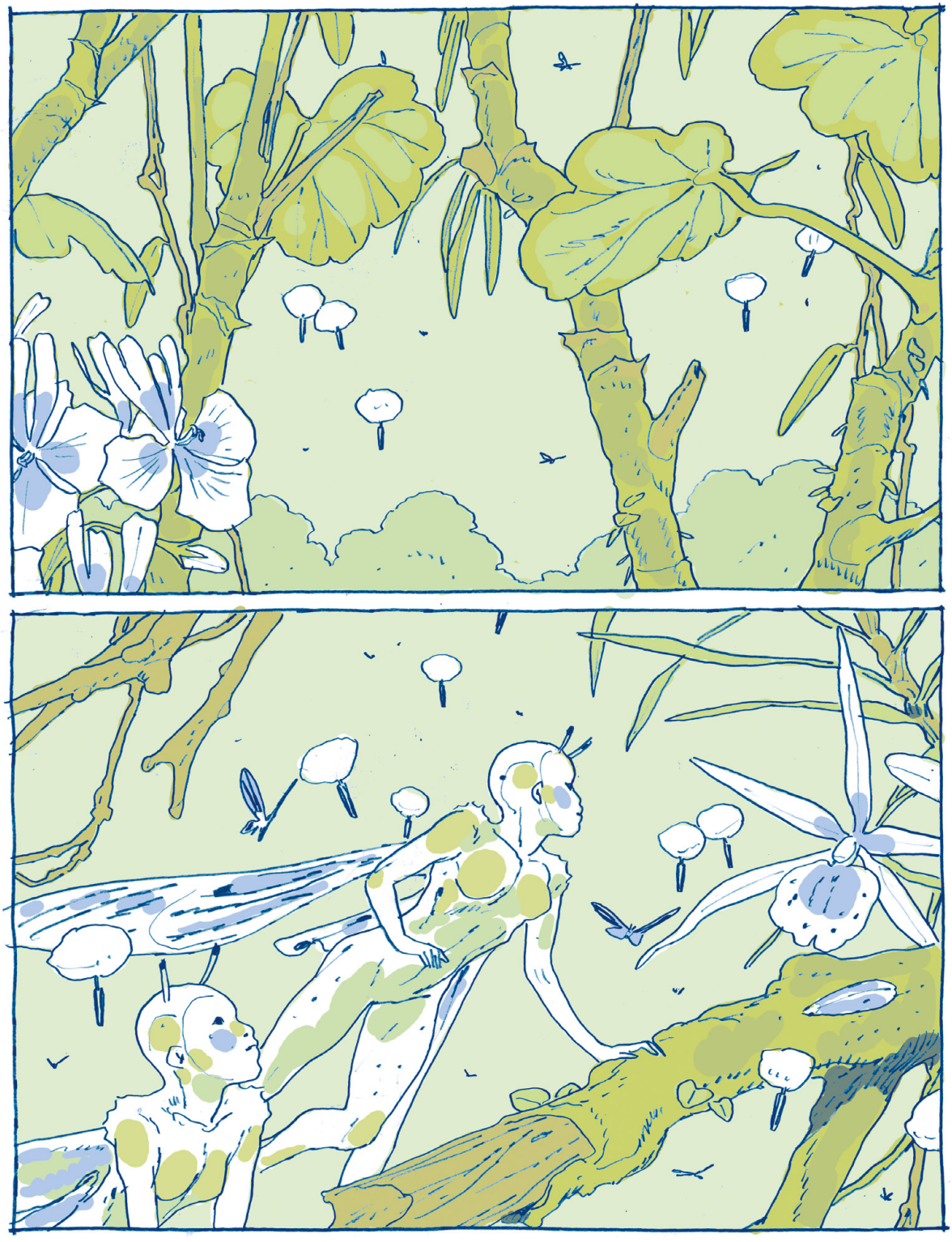


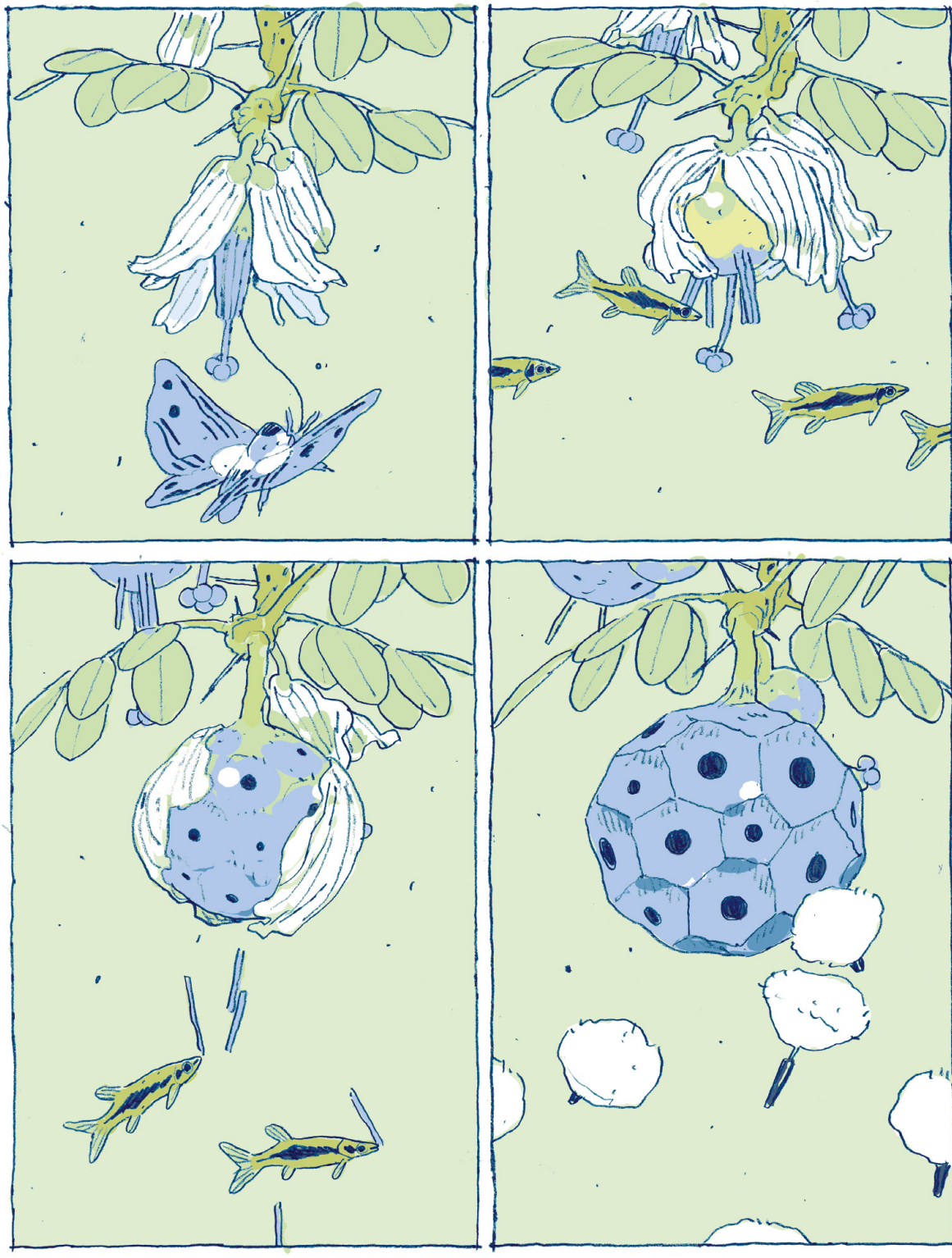
THE ADULT COCOGANTH EMERGES AT FULL MOON AND PRODUCES A CONSTANT HUM THAT GROWS LOWER AS THE NEW MOON APPROACHES, AFTER WHICH IT DIES. IT FEEDS ON MOLD AND FEARS THE SUN.

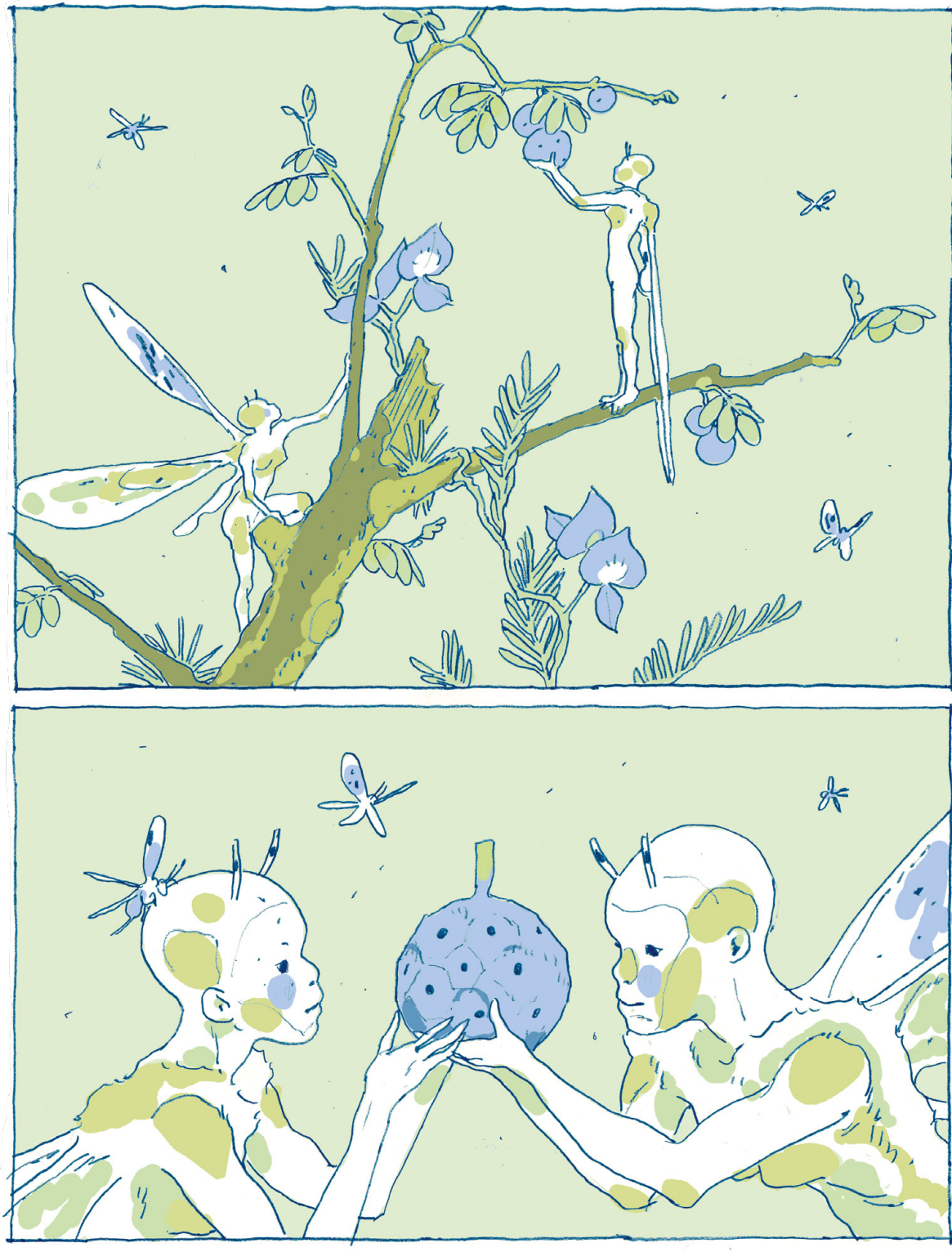


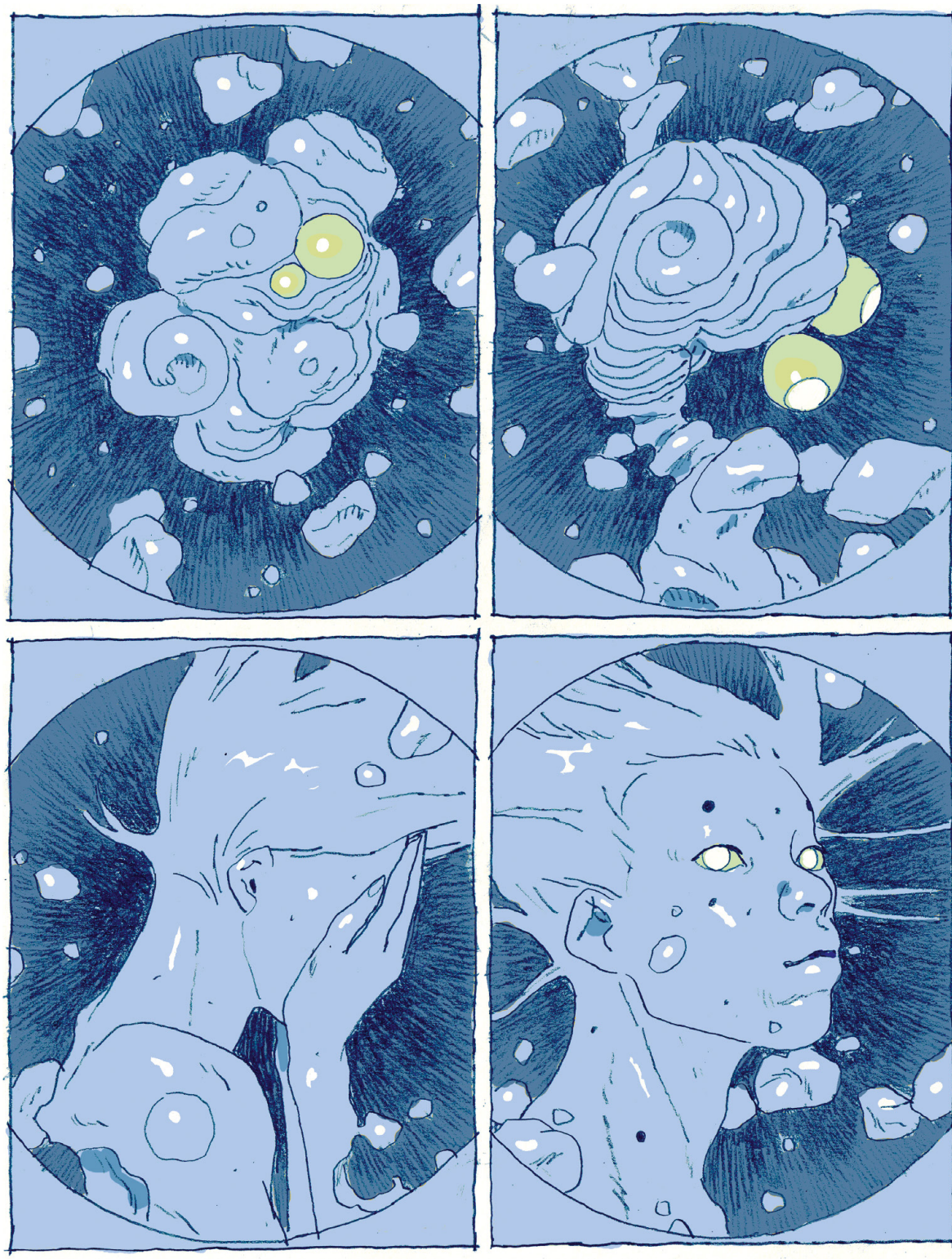
THE SOFT, BELL-LIKE SONG OF THE MUMURAX WILL PUT BIRDS TO SLEEP AND HAS BEEN KNOWN TO CAUSE VIVID DAYDREAMS IN HUMANS — IN CHILDREN THIS EFFECT MIGHT BE PERMANENT.


THEN THERE ARE THE NAMHAII:
THE ONES THAT LOOK LIKE PEOPLE.



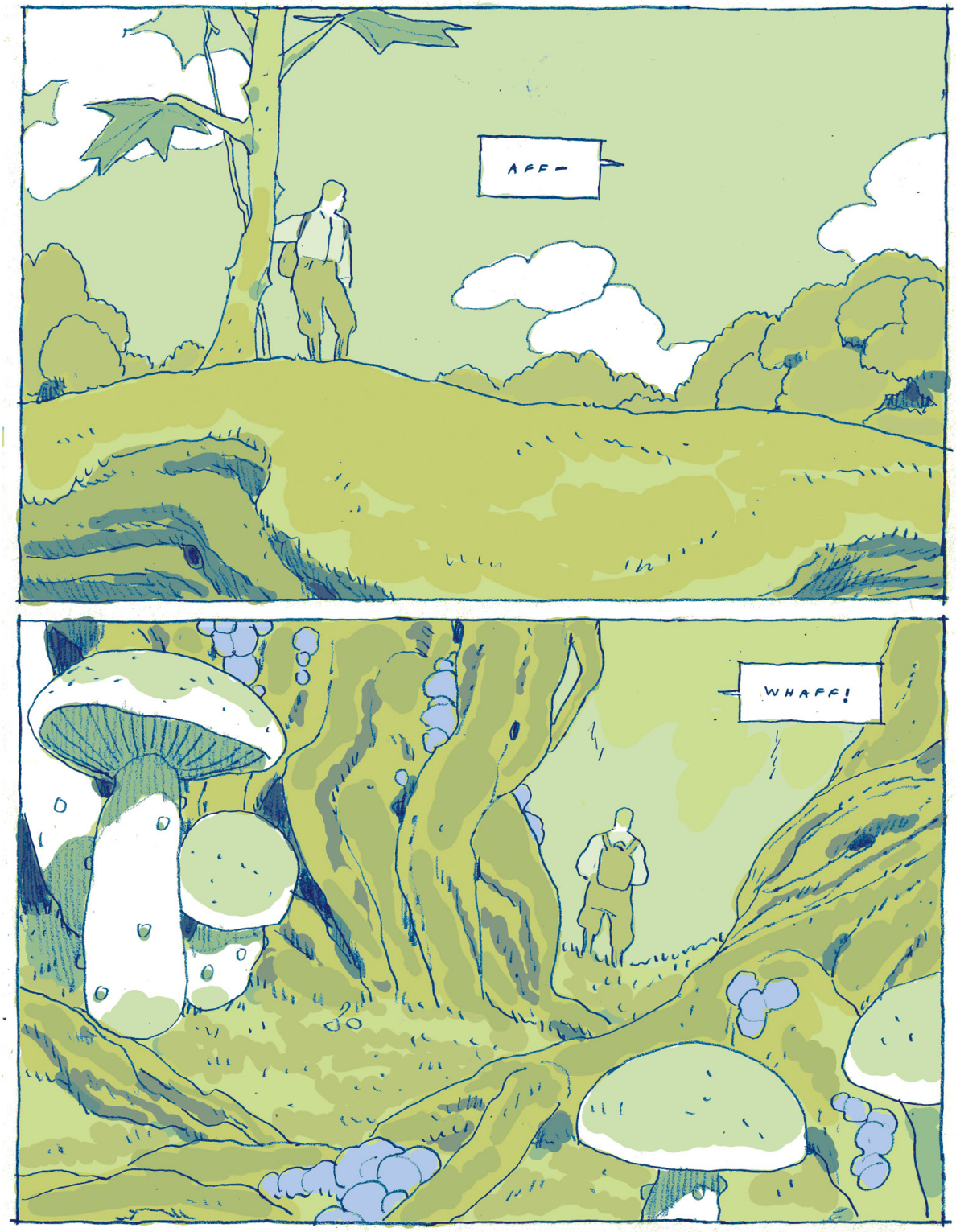


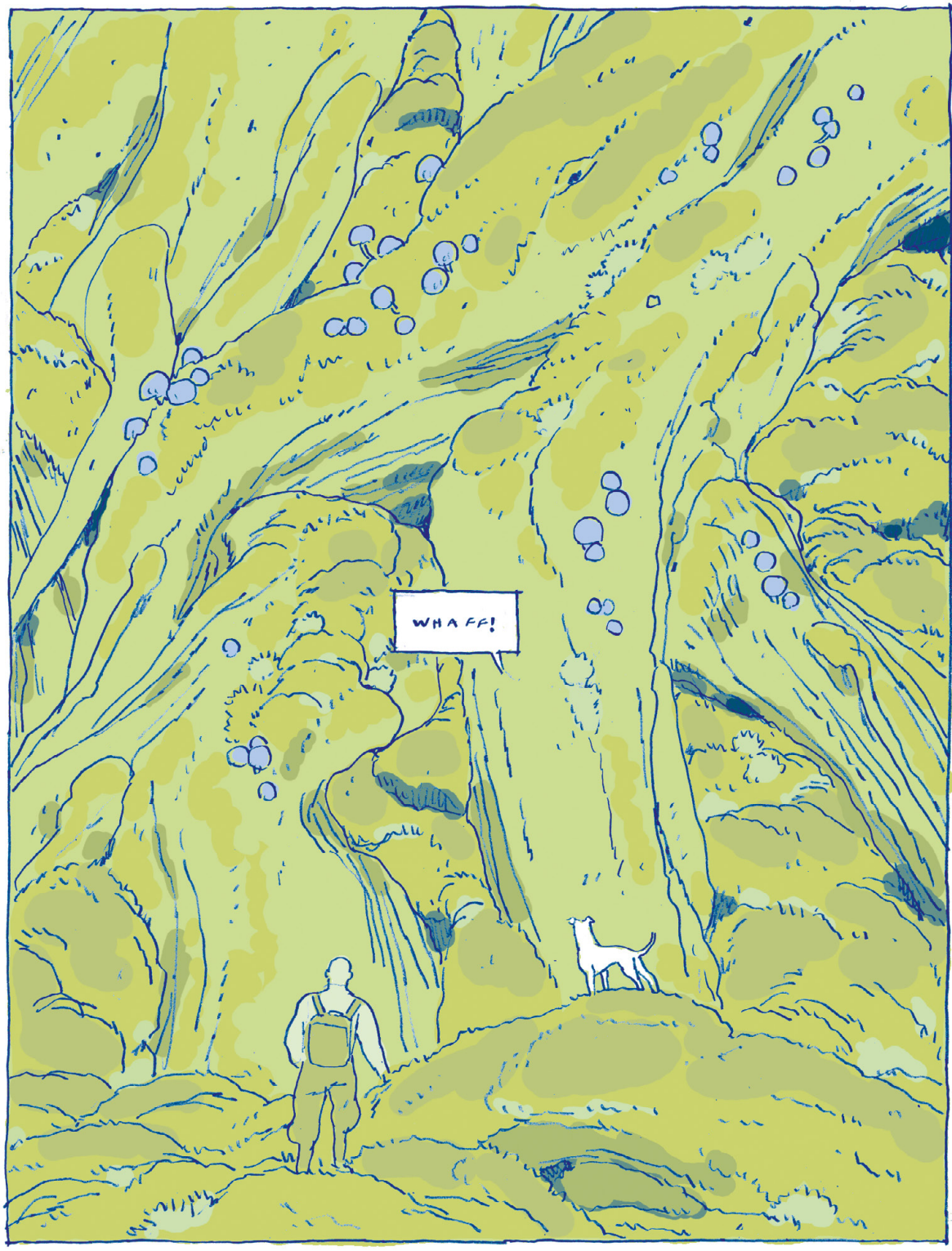




THE 'PILOT'!
HERE-
FIND HER!

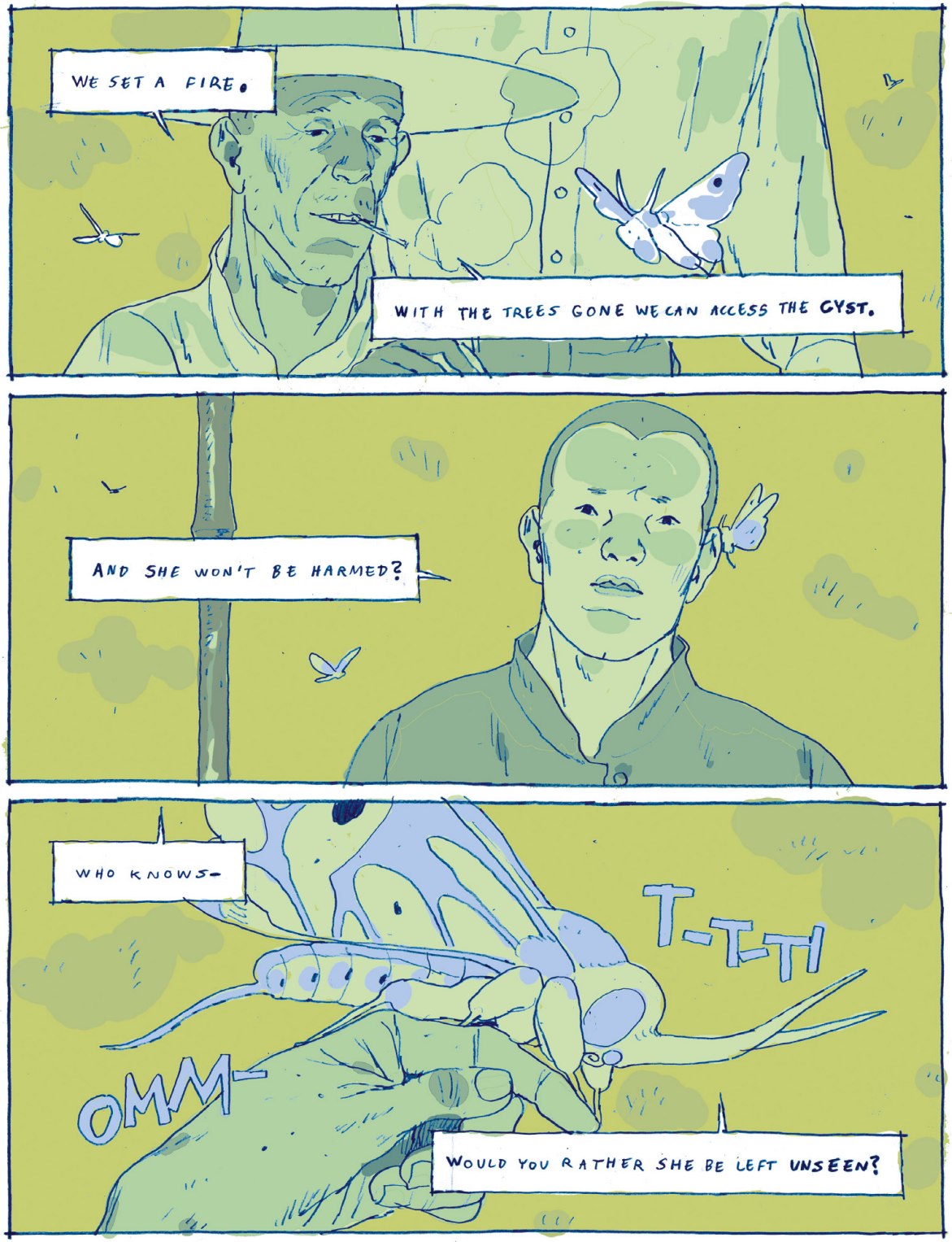
ARFF!

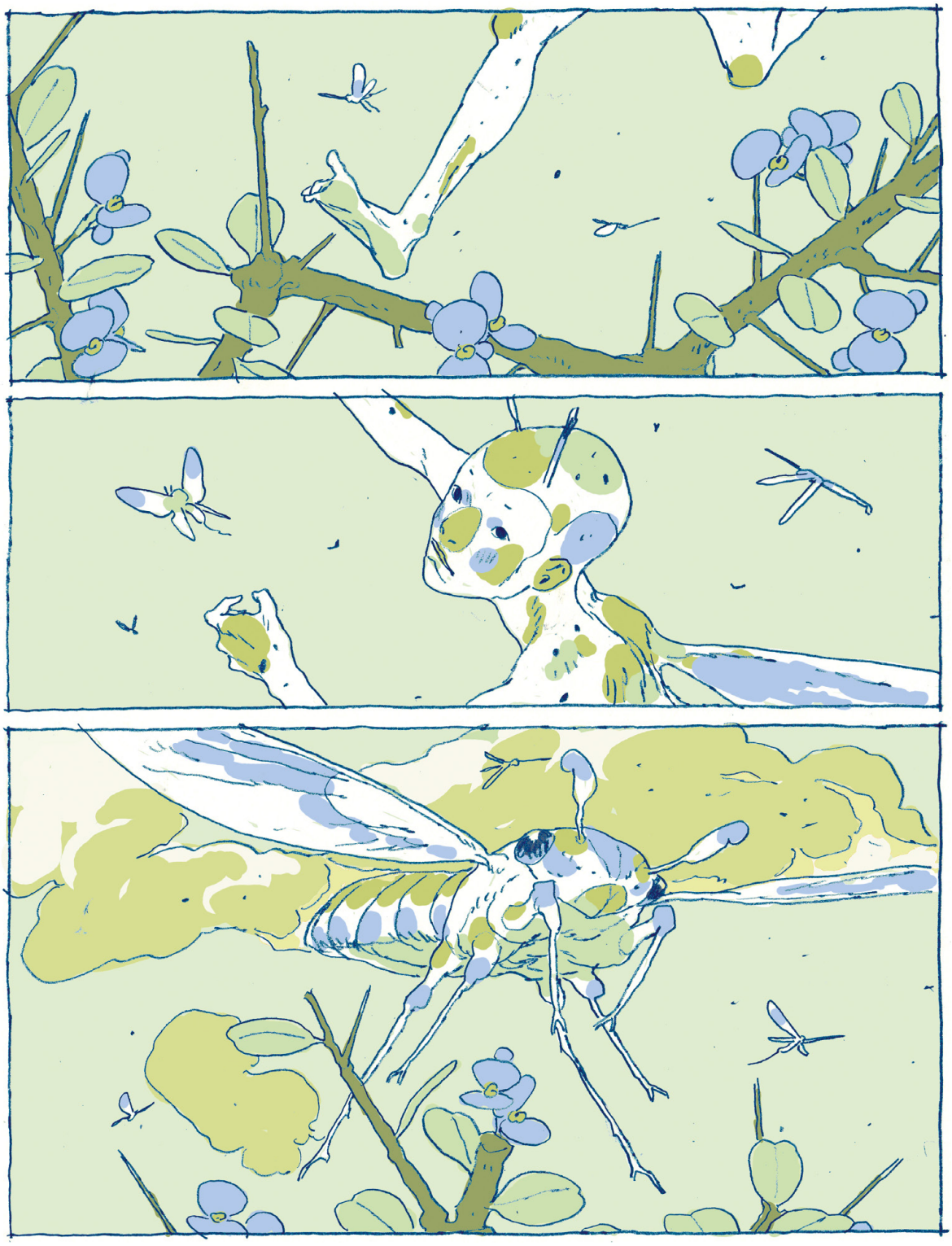

AFF—
WHAFF!

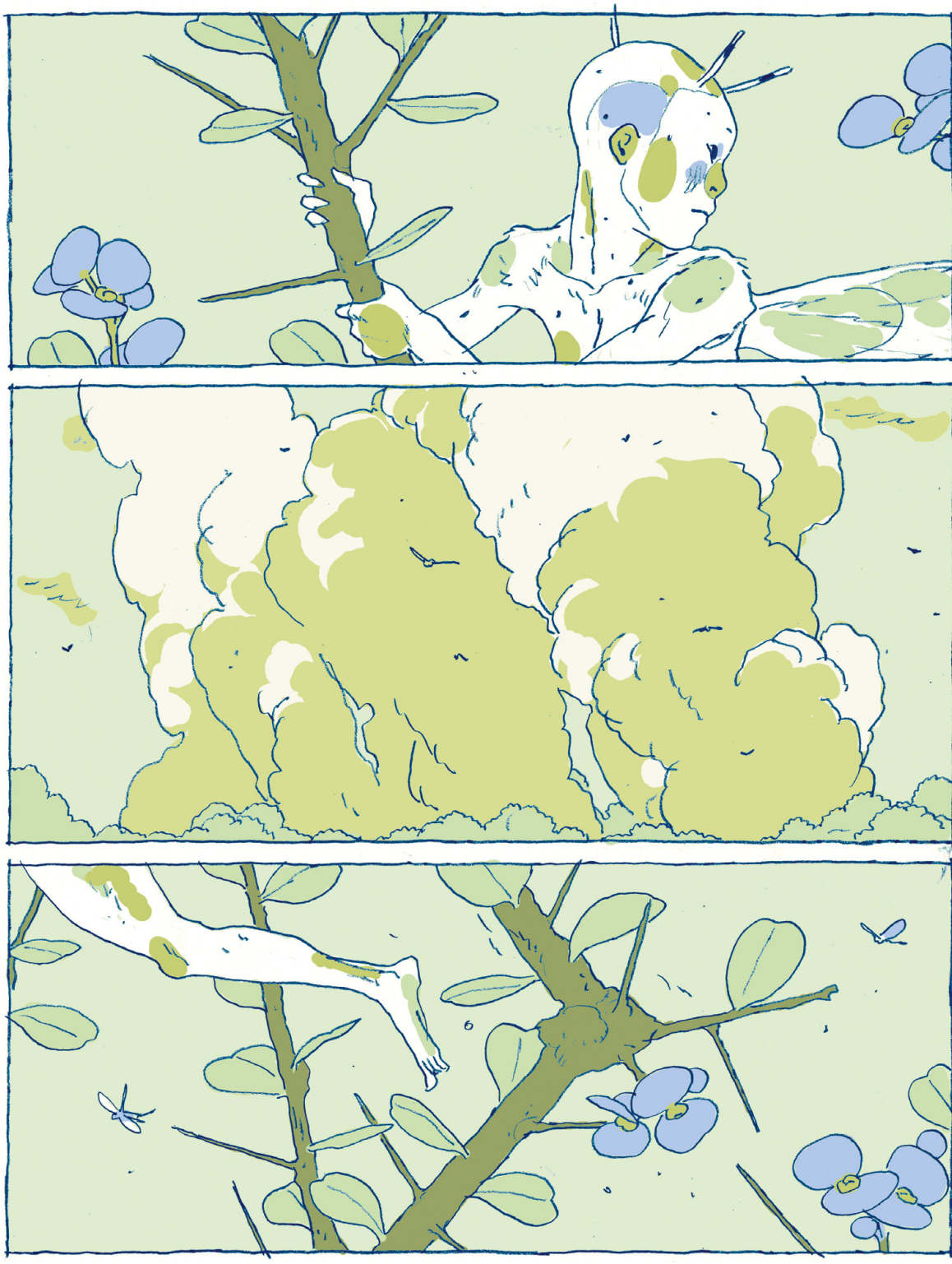

WHAFF!

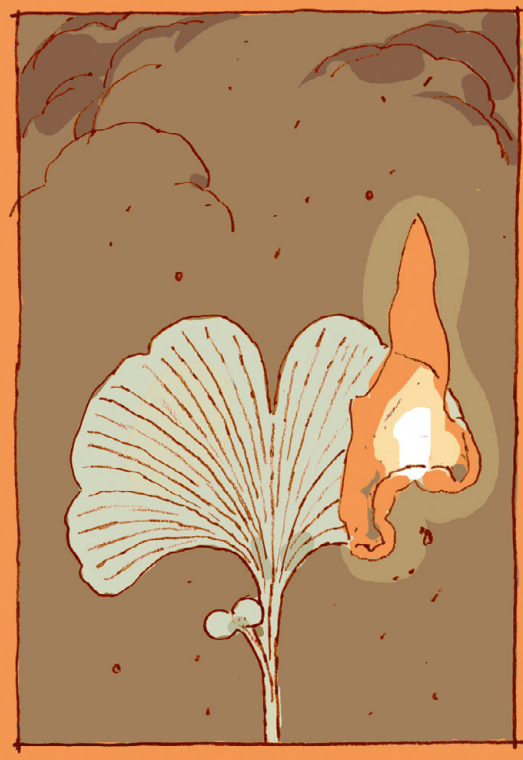
ARFF!
A WALL OF ROOTS?
RIGHT HERE.

ISN'T THAT...
YES. THE AMYGDALA.
THAT WOULD BE THE PLACE, WOULDN'T IT?
QUESTION IS, IF SHE'S THERE...
SHE IS.
SURE, SHE IS — HOW DO WE GET IN THERE?

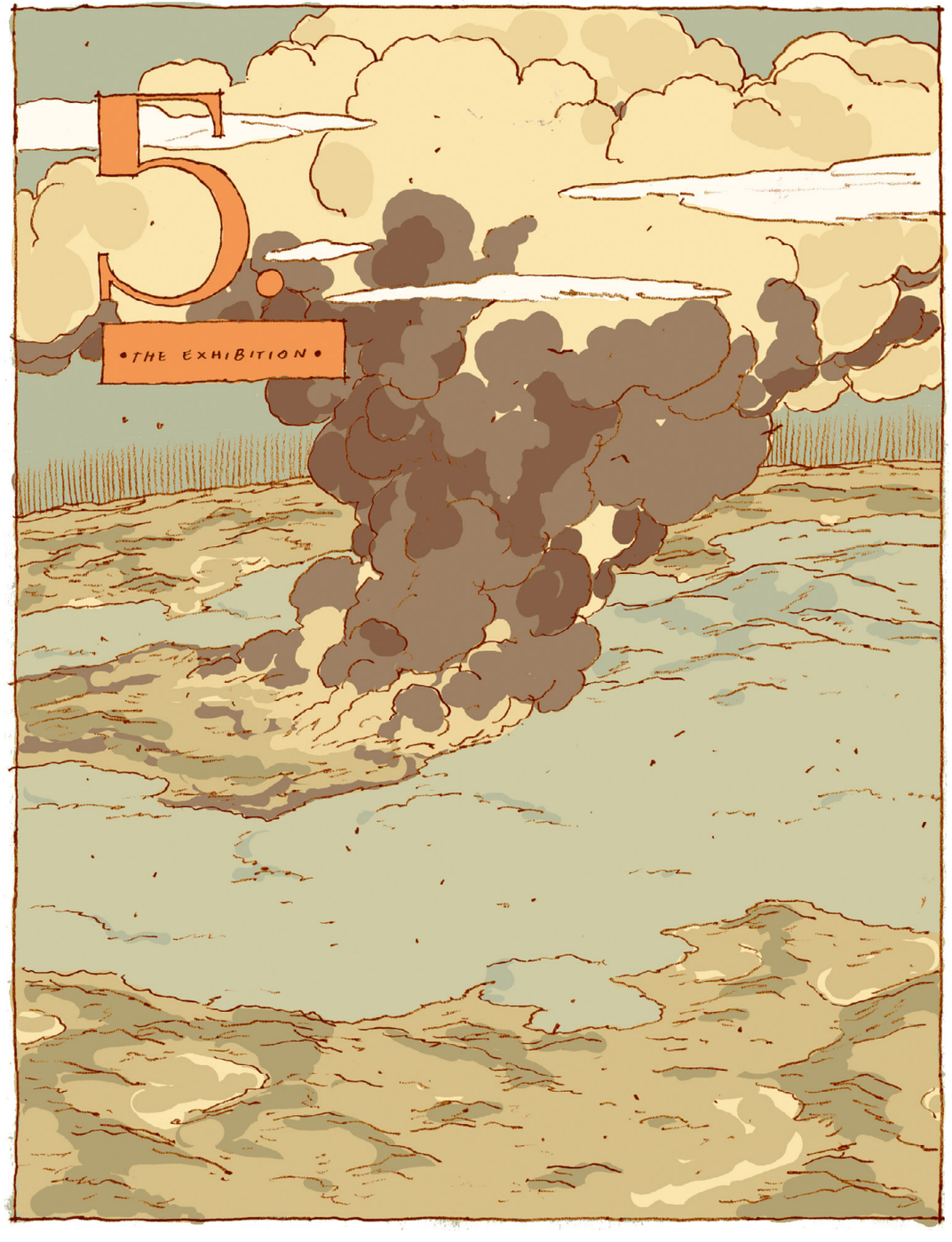

WE SET A FIRE.
WITH THE TREES GONE WE CAN ACCESS THE CYST.
AND SHE WON'T BE HARMED?
WHO KNOWS-
T-T-TH
OMM-
WOULD YOU RATHER SHE BE LEFT UNSEEN?

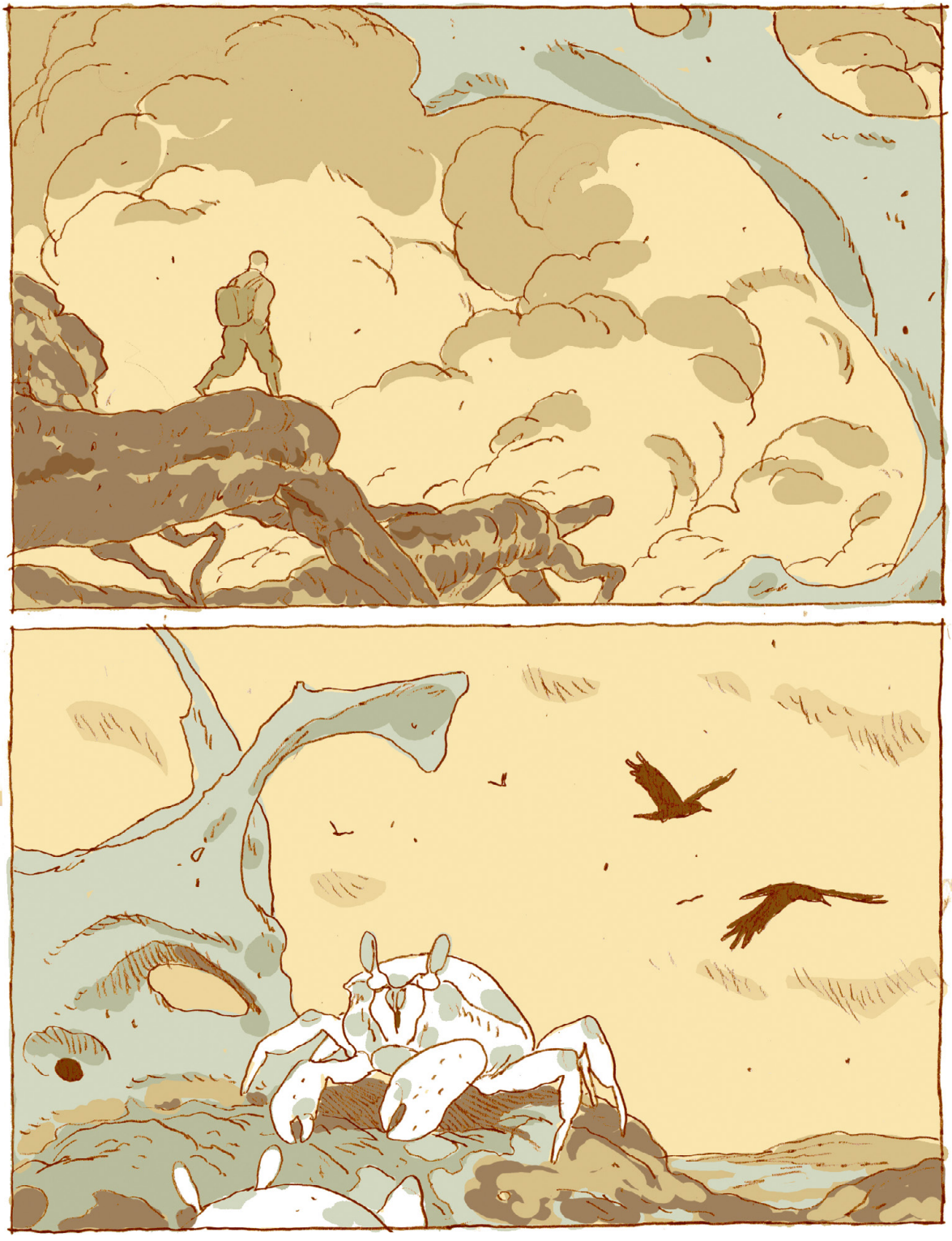


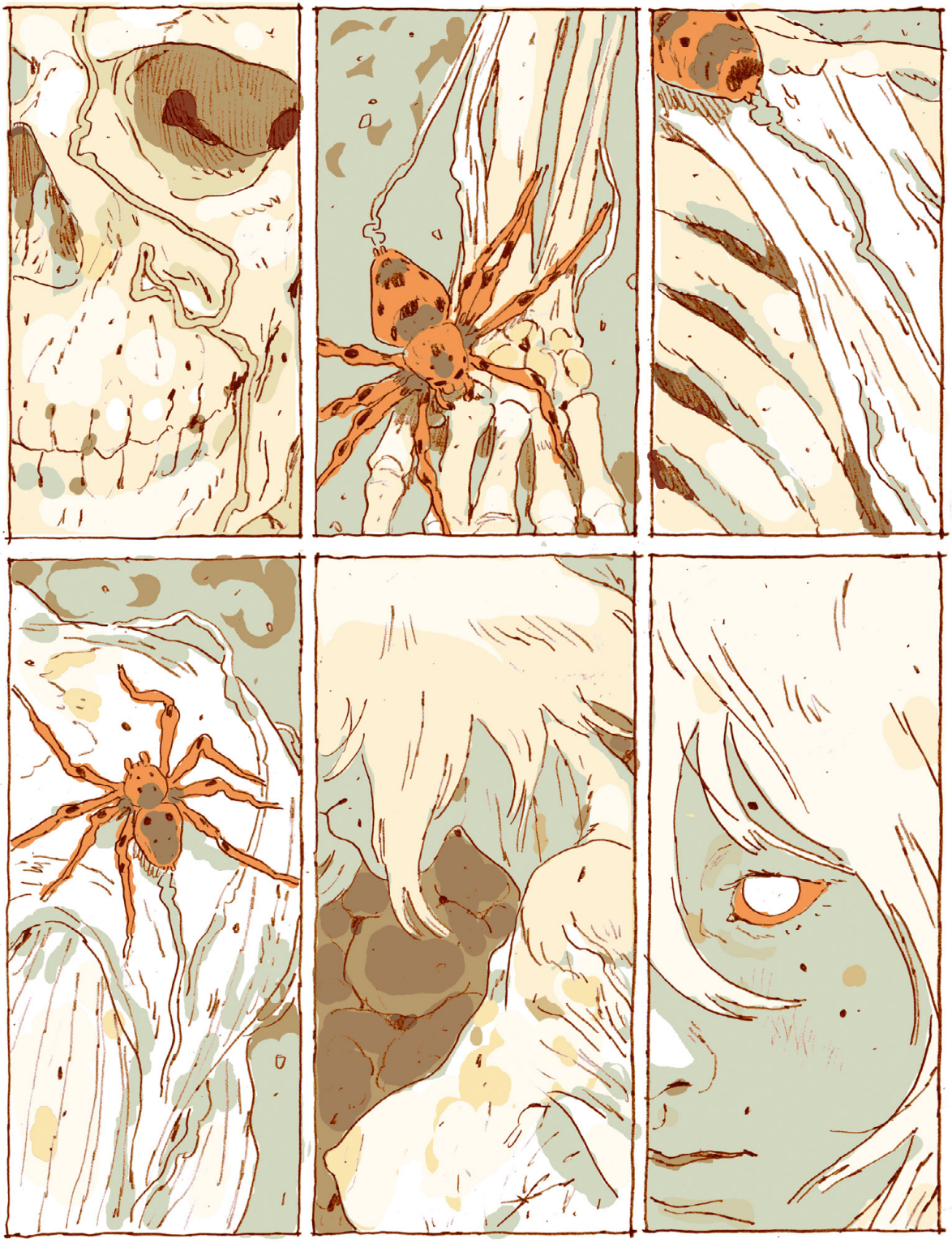


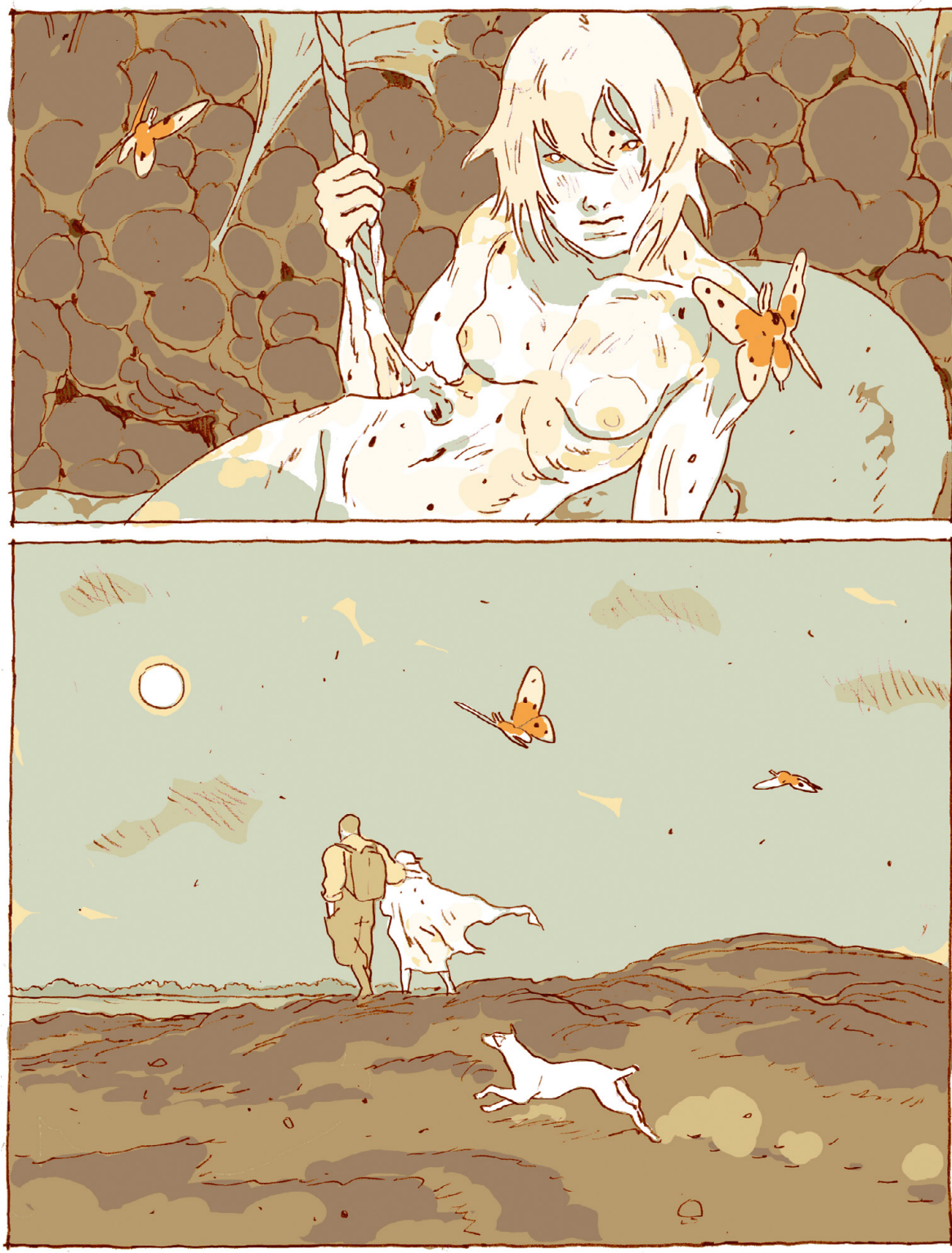


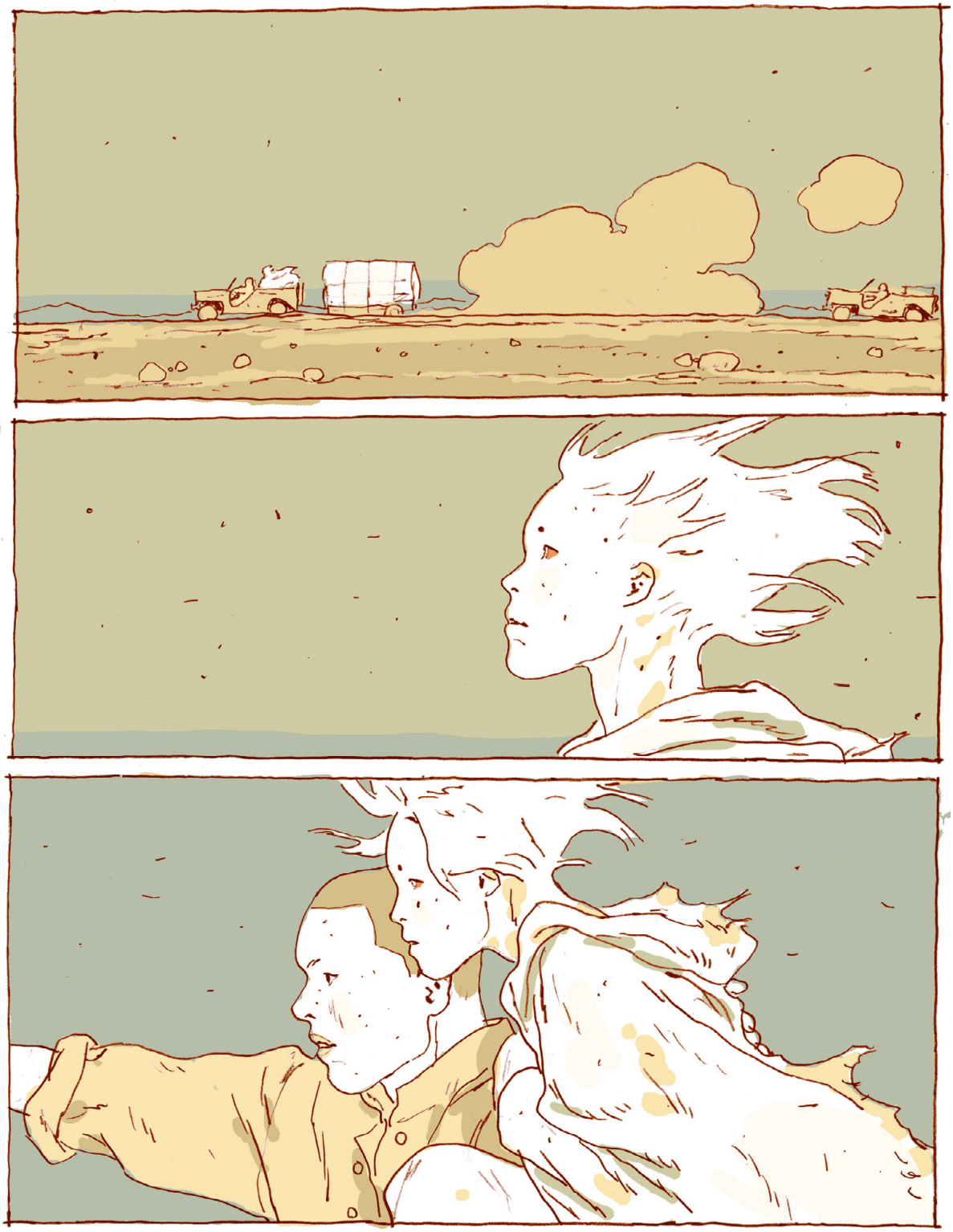
NOW THERE'S ONLY ONE THING LEFT FOR US TO FIND BEFORE OUR COLLECTION IS COMPLETE: THE PILOT HERSELF. WE LIGHT OUR CIGARS AND WAIT FOR THE RAIN.

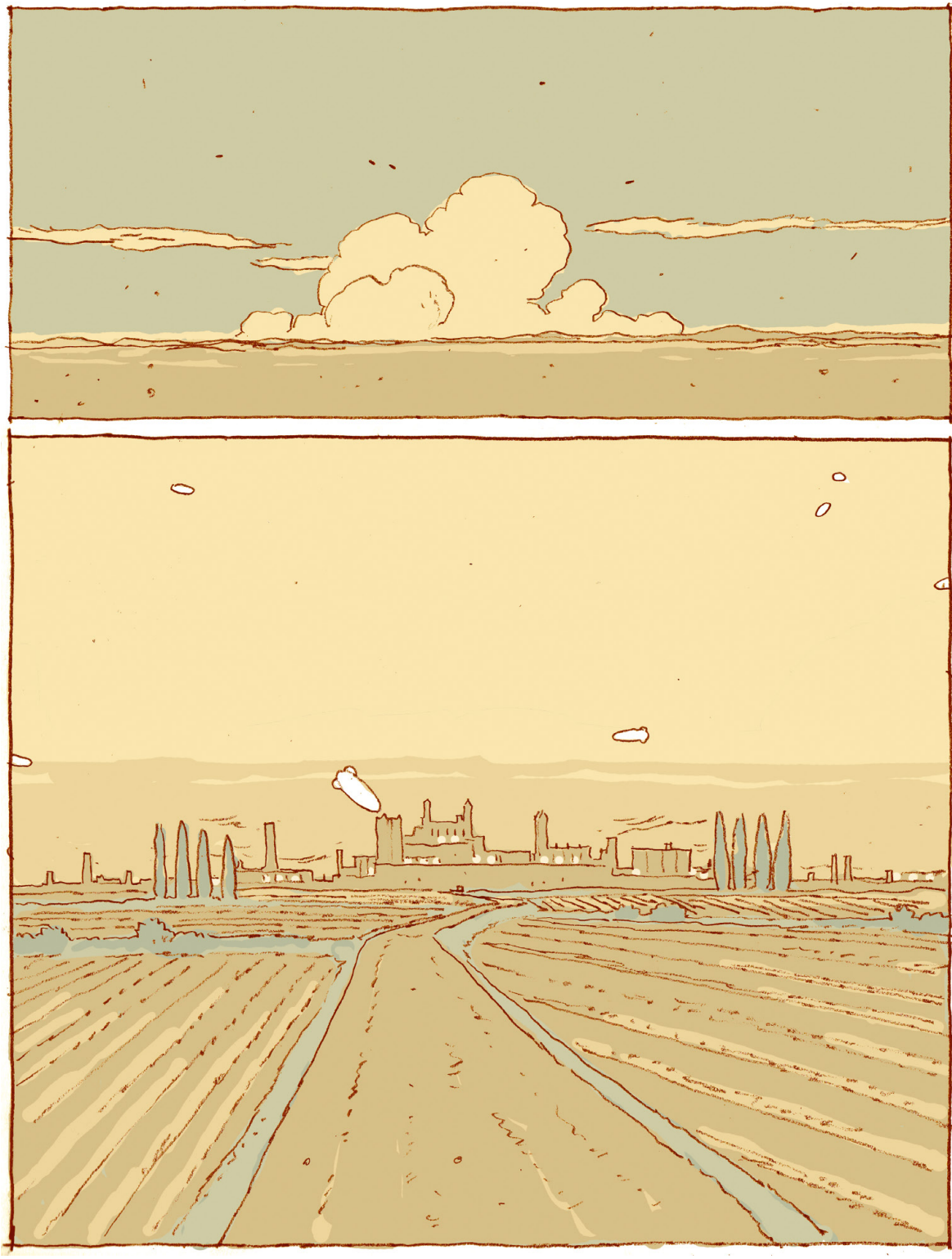

5.
•THE EXHIBITION•

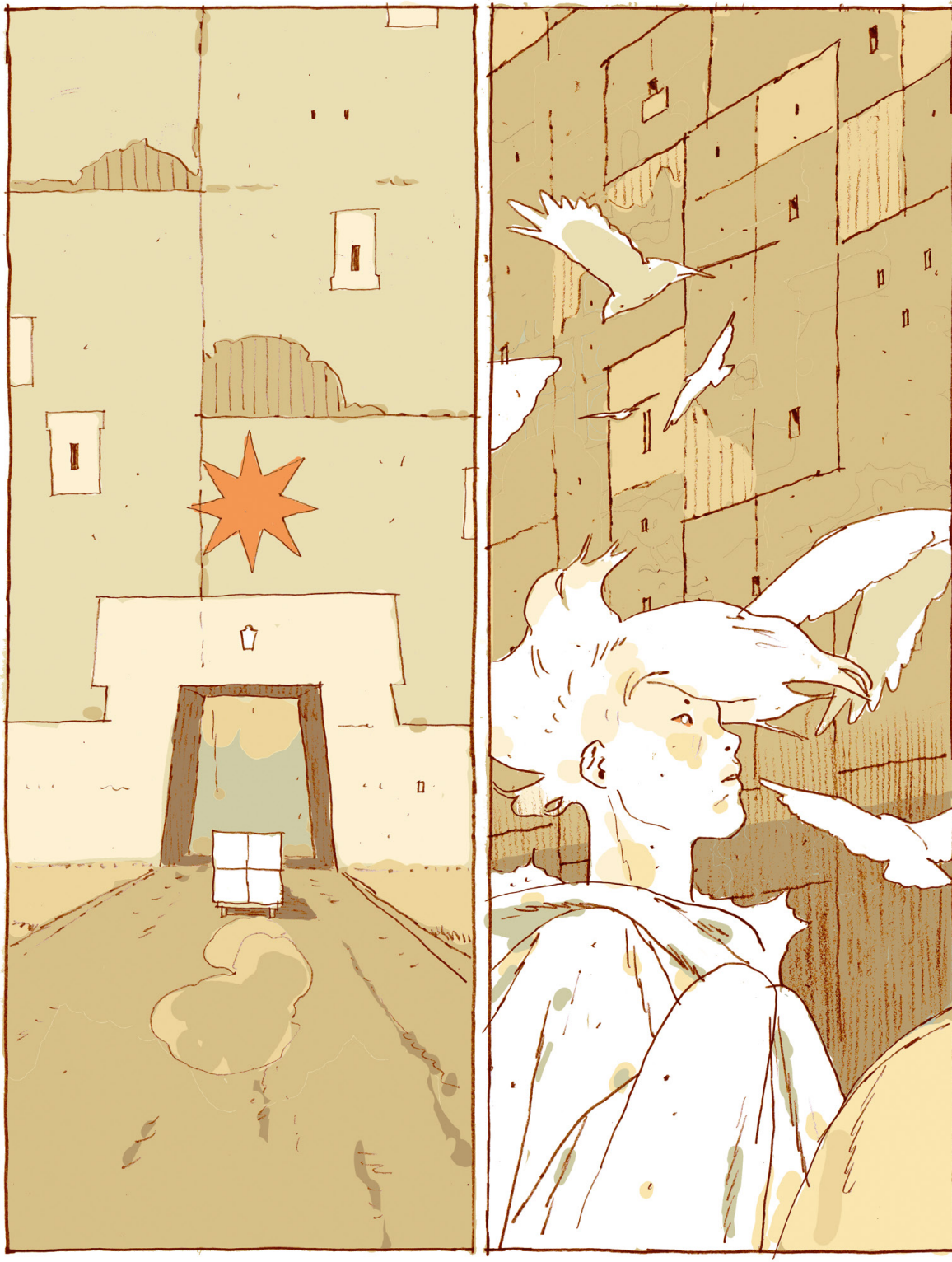


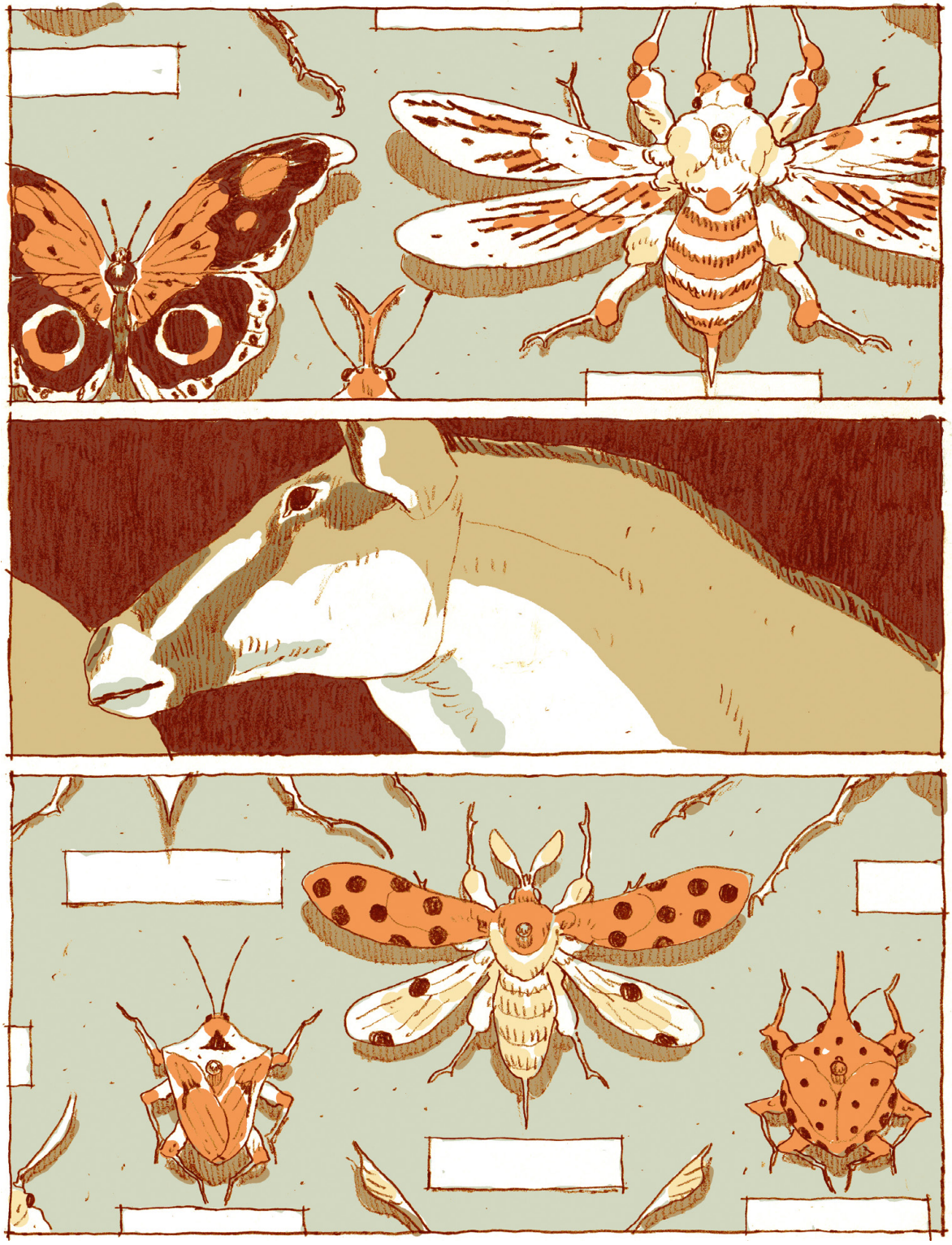


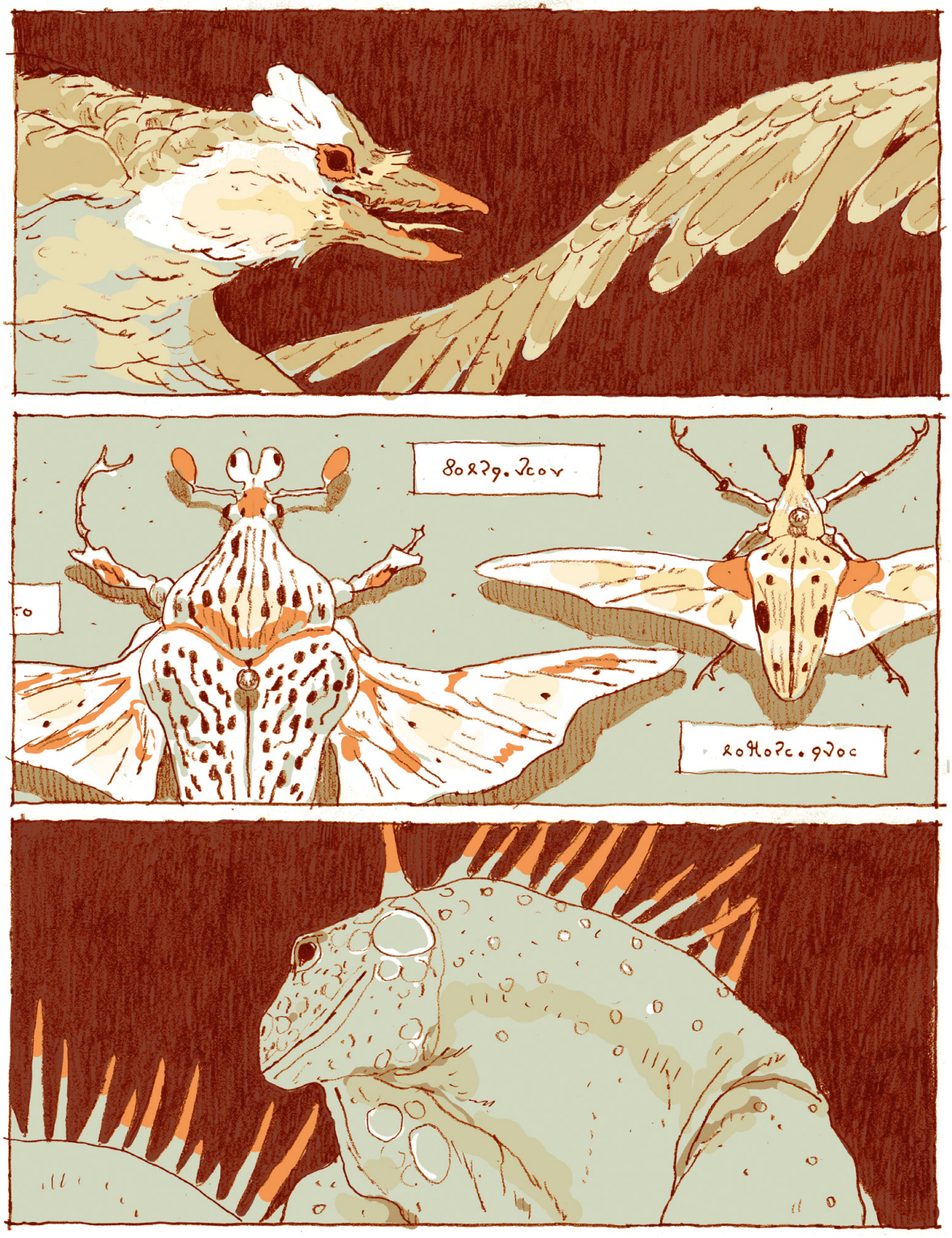


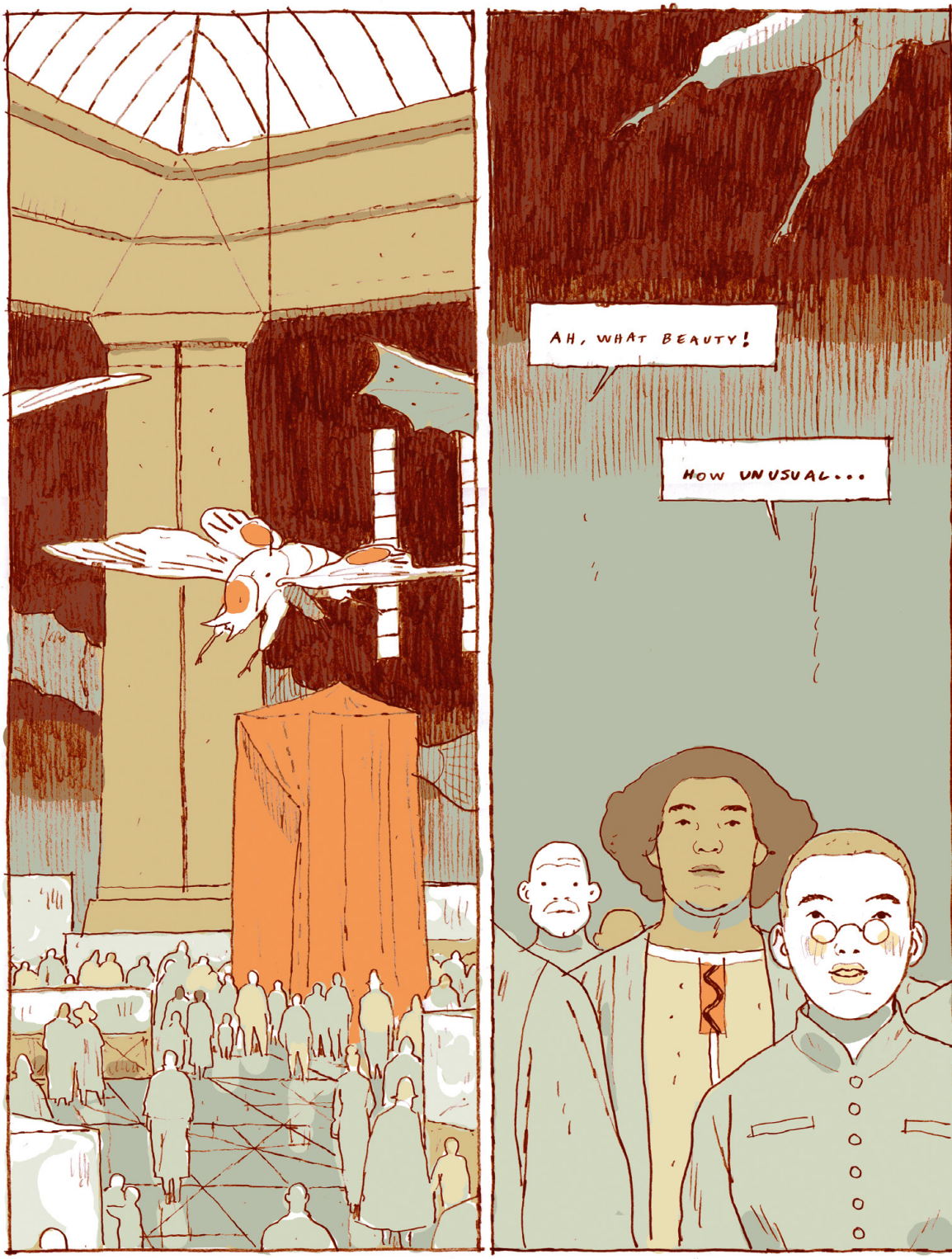


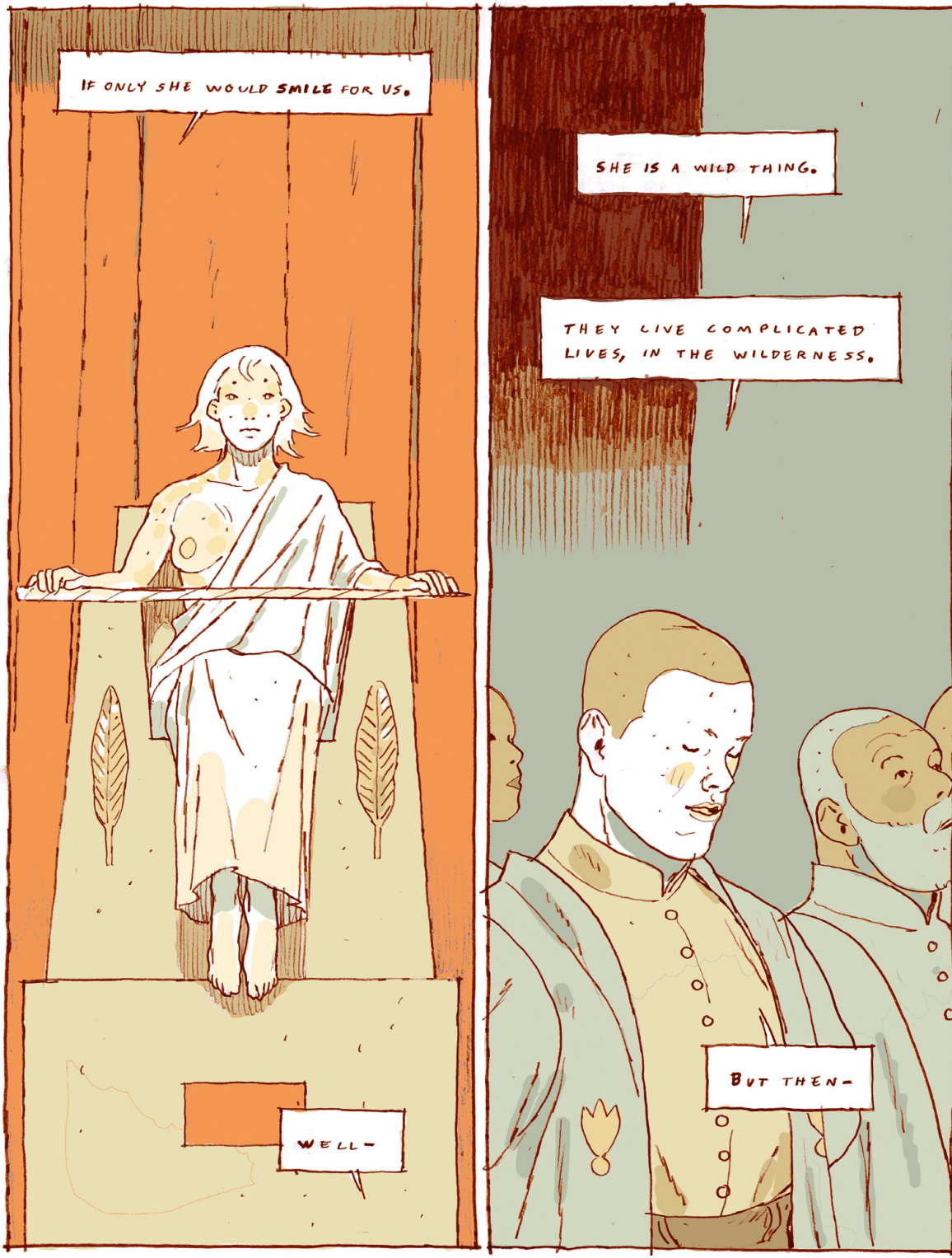






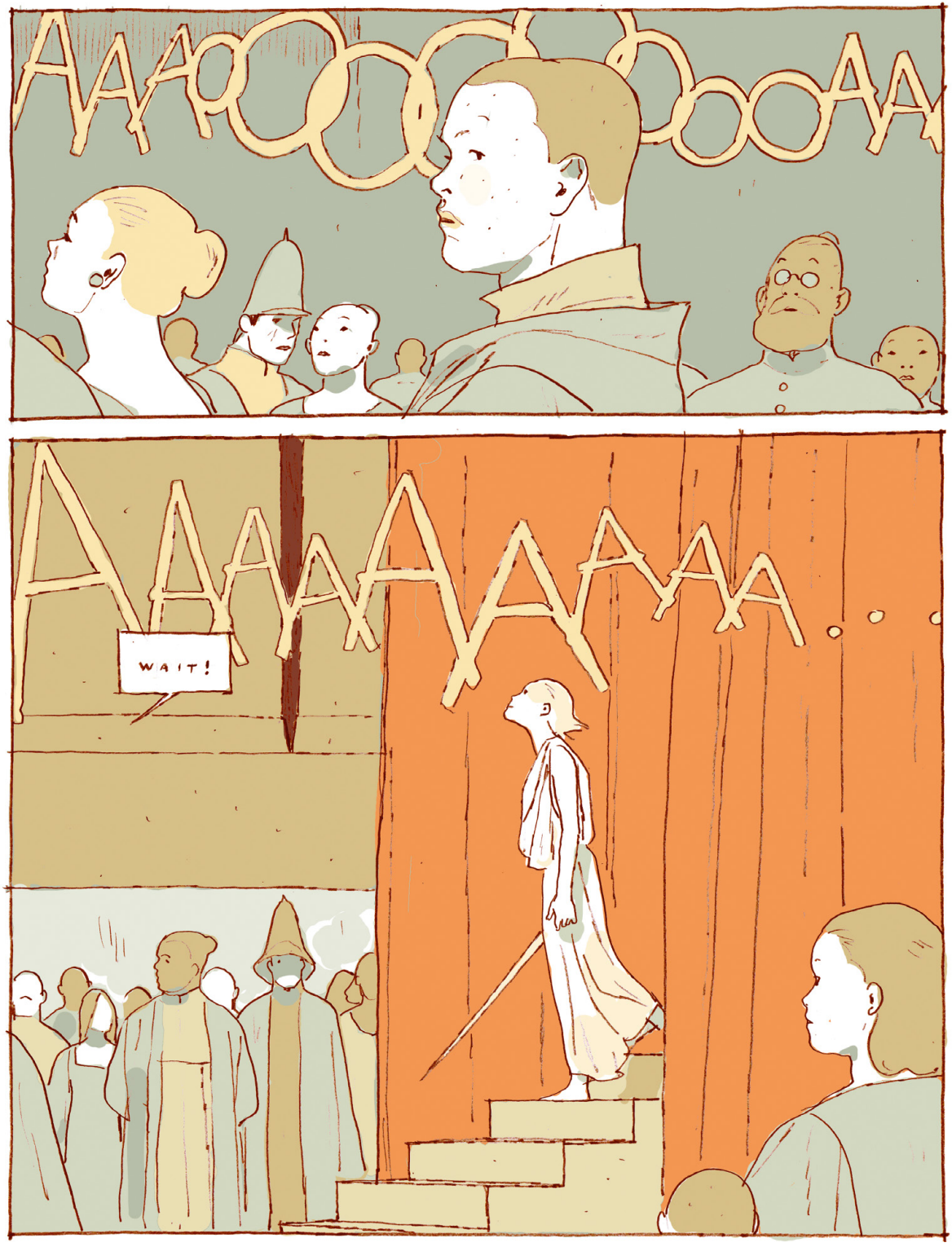

ᏰᎵᏍᏆᏂᎪᏛᏁᎲᏁᎳ
ᏍᎦᏚᎩᏗᏣᎳᎩᏂᎨᏒᎾ


AH, WHAT BEAUTY!
HOW UNUSUAL...

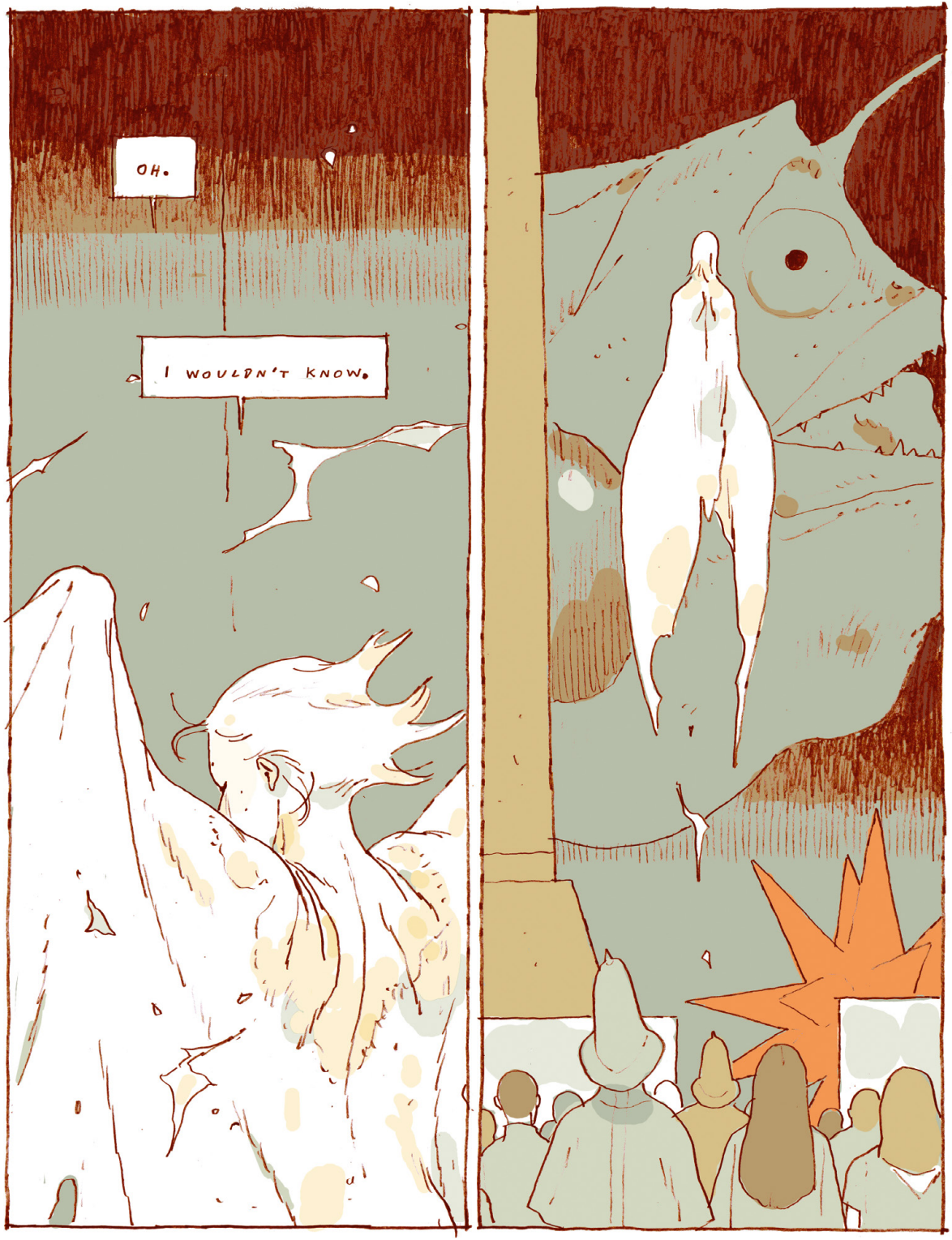

IF ONLY SHE WOULD SMILE FOR US.
WELL-
SHE IS A WILD THING.
THEY LIVE COMPLICATED LIVES, IN THE WILDERNESS.
BUT THEN-

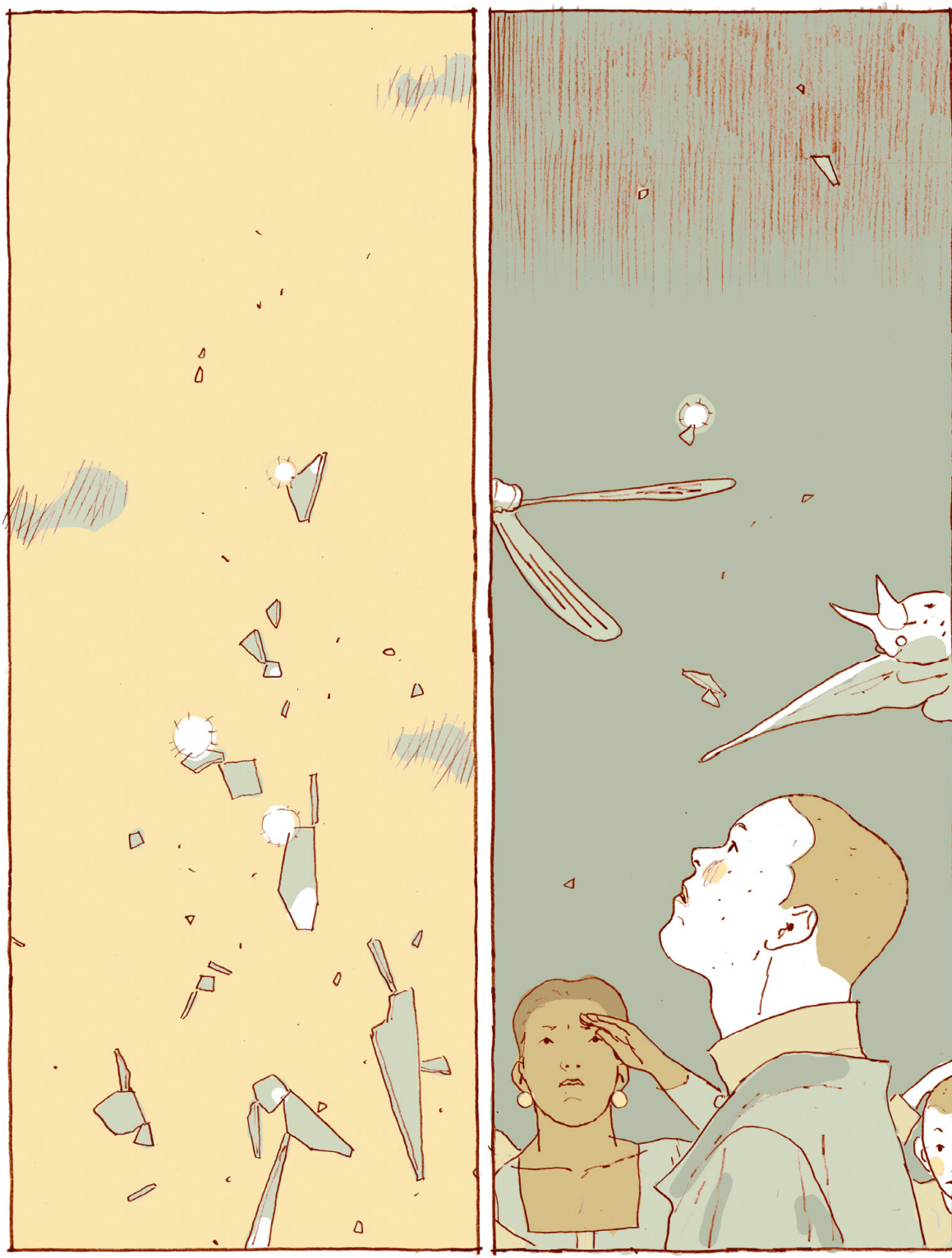
SHE SMILED ON THE WAY HERE.

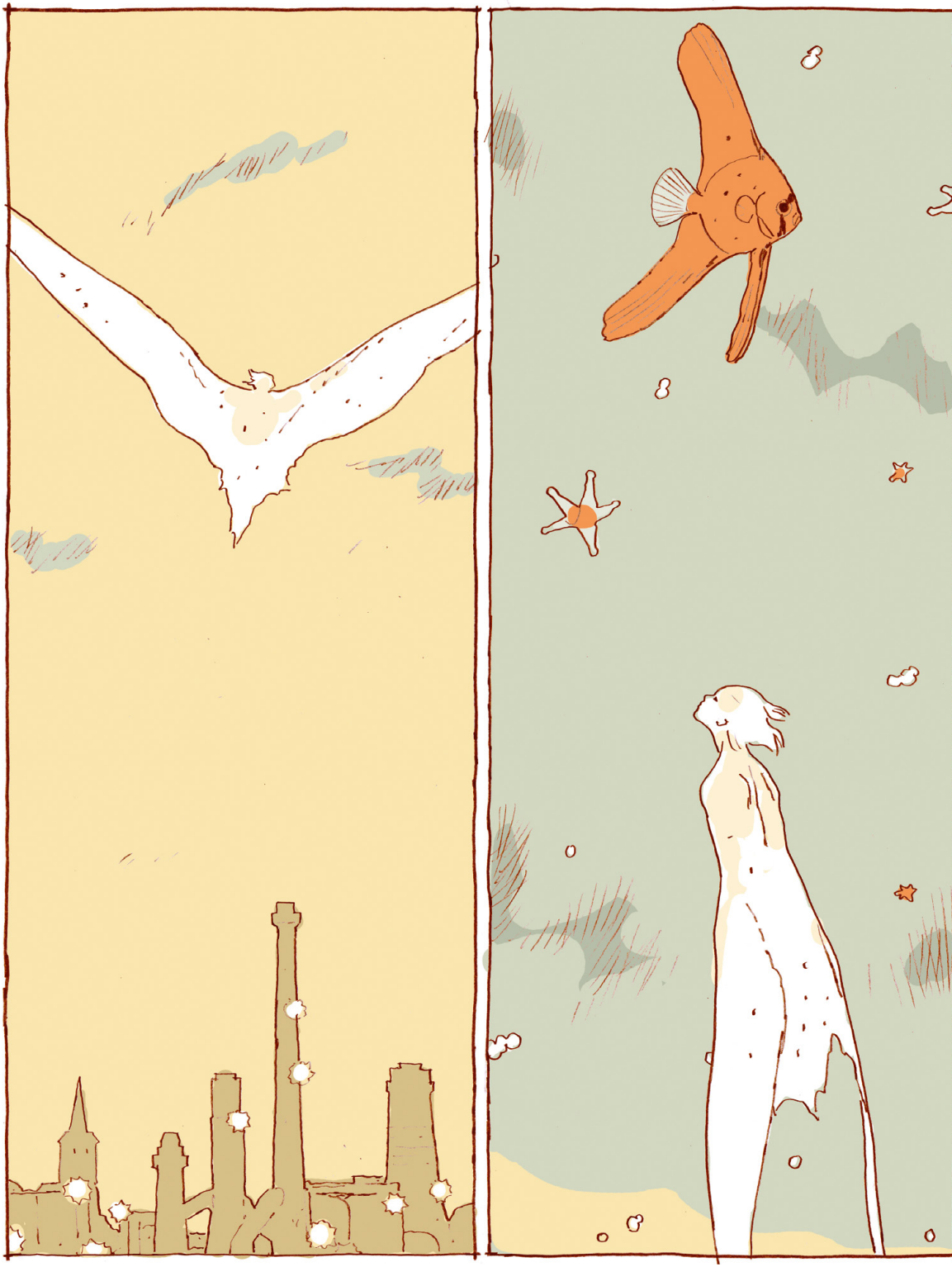
AAAAAAAAA

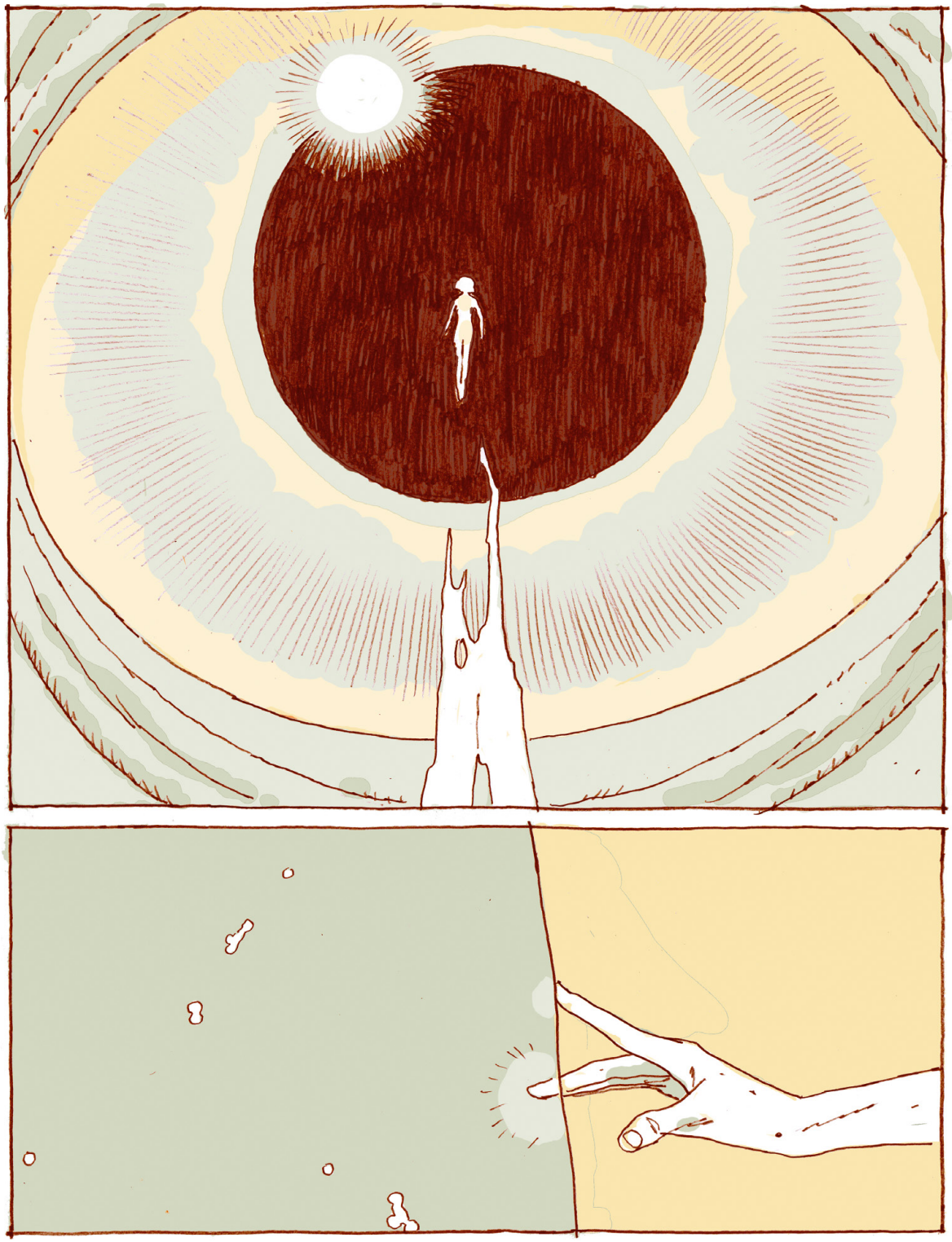

AAAOOOOOOOOOOAA
AAAAAAAAAAA
WAIT!

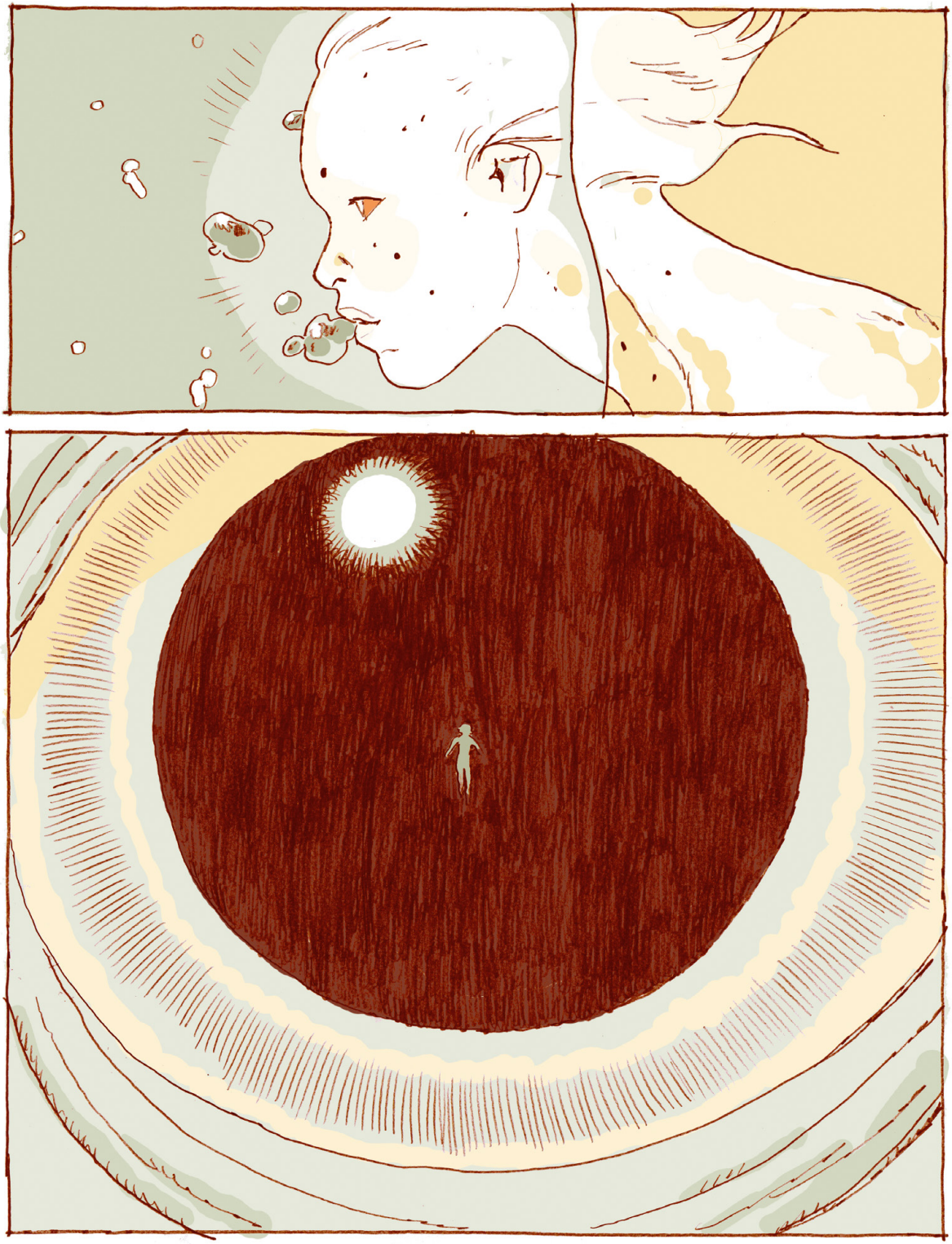
IT WAS KIND OF YOU. WAKING ME UP.
YOU CAN TALK? NO - TELL ME -
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
AND WHY ARE YOU SHAPED LIKE THAT - LIKE A WOMAN?
WHAT DOES IT SIGNIFY?

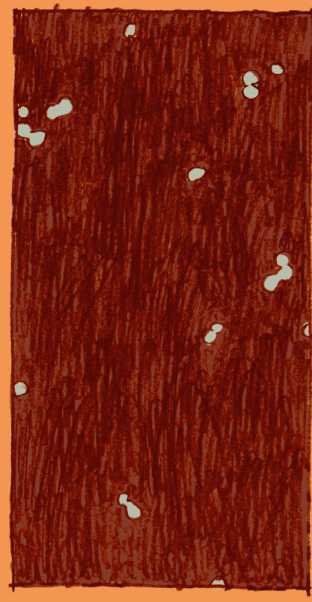

OH.
I WOULDN'T KNOW.











(FIN.)

ISBN: 978-91-87325-26-7
© 2017 PEOW Studio & Linnea Sterte
www.peowstudio.com

An alien desert comes to life around the body of a dying whale. Animals, insects, and ancient peoples scramble for her remains, making their homes among her bones, struggling through a millennia-long process of decay.

Stages of Rot is written and illustrated by **Linnea Sterte**, one of the most prominent up-and-coming artists in Sweden today.